



## WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 Church Street  
Woodbury, CT 06798

Website: [www.woodburyumc.net](http://www.woodburyumc.net)

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

Email: [www.woodburyumc.net](mailto:www.woodburyumc.net)



Rev. John A. Thomason, Pastor

# Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

## Lent

**Lent** is a 40-day season of spiritual preparation for Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday and ending on Holy Saturday. The number of days in Lent recalls Christ's temptation in the wilderness, which lasted forty days. Because Sundays are always "little Easters," the Sundays in Lent are considered feast days rather than fast days and are not included in the forty days.

The term *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time of heightened spiritual discipline for all Christians.

This year, WUMC'S Lenten journey will focus on the end-point of Christ's earthly journey – the cross – where he uttered 7 last "words." Adam Hamilton's book/video series, *Final Words from the Cross*, will serve as our guide. Pastor John will preach a Lenten sermon series highlighting each of the words in their traditional order. The adult Bible Study Fellowship will explore the corresponding chapter in Hamilton's book each Tuesday night in Lent (see below).

## February 21: First Sunday in Lent

**Pastor's Sermon:**

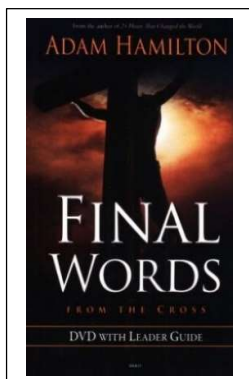
***Final Words: Father, Forgive Them***

**Text: Luke 23:26-27, 32-38**

**Liturgist: Joann King    Reader: Joann King**

**Singers: Paul Beavers, Sr. and Joann King**

**Mike Boisseau, Children's Time leader**



### LENTE VIDEO & DISCUSSION SERIES

Christ's "final words from the cross" can offer a new understanding of his teachings, his faith, and his own relationship with God.

And Jesus' words can do the same for each of us. Helping us to renew our relationship with God, strengthen our faith, and live the teachings of Jesus.

*In his book "Final Words from the Cross", well-known pastor and author, Adam Hamilton, provides fresh insight into Jesus' final words through the perspective of those who witnessed the crucifixion.*

And in an optional seventh session, he moves beyond the cross to Jesus' words to the disciples on the road to Emmaus and to those who were witnesses to the Resurrection. (excerpt from Christianbook.com)

Sessions include:

- ❖ "Father Forgive Them."
- ❖ "Today you will be with me in paradise."
- ❖ "Behold your son" ...." Behold your mother".
- ❖ "My God, My God why have you forsaken me."
- ❖ "I thirst."
- ❖ "It is finished" ..." Into your hands I commit my spirit."

**Please join this compelling discussion/fellowship, which will parallel Pastor John's sermon series.**

**DAY:** Tuesdays (beginning February 23<sup>rd</sup>)  
**TIME:** 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM  
**PLACE:** Fellowship Hall (in person)  
Online via Zoom (link available on the church website)  
By phone (link and information on the church website)

Books are available through the church office or online through usual booksellers.  
Contact Bud Behlman for additional information: [budbehlman@charter.net](mailto:budbehlman@charter.net) or 203-206-9276

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## Please Join Us for Livestreamed Worship Events

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 will also be available 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#. Note that these numbers have changed from what was previously used. Please mute your phones to eliminate background noise.

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## Volunteers Still Needed for Woodbury Food Bank

**February** is WUMC's month to provide volunteers for the **Food Bank** sponsored by the Community Services Council of Woodbury. Openings are available on the remaining two Fridays of the month – February 19 and 26. Please call the church office or Mission and Outreach Ministry Team chair *Rev. Paul Hibbard* (860-488-7705) to sign up.

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## 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!
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## MISSION ECUADOR

Support for the Methodist Church's mission and ministry in Ecuador is one of the four core areas that our Mission and Outreach team prioritized for the mission focus of the Woodbury United Methodist Church. Our main vehicle for supporting ministry in Ecuador is through the United Methodist Church's Board of Global Ministries missionary assigned to Ecuador: *Sara Flores* and her husband *Dakin Cook*. Below is a recent email received from Sara & Dakin sharing the situation in Ecuador. Please take a moment to read this and then I would like to share one way that we can continue to support the churches and people of Ecuador.

*Dear friends,*

*Greetings from Quito, praying that you are well and healthy.*

*We want to share good news, recently UMC Global Ministries approved my mission assignment (Sara) to Ecuador for 3 more years. Please keep us in your prayers. Mission service for us is a blessing and amid this time of general crisis, we pray that God can strengthen the mission in Ecuador.*

*We need to share that the situation of the pandemic in Ecuador is very bad. Vaccination is just getting started here, last week the first shipment arrived for frontline health workers and we expect more over the next month. We really don't expect a good proportion of the population to be vaccinated here until late this year, if then. Ecuador and the region continue to have a high death and contagion rates and it is not yet leveling off and really won't for a good while. We are still under various restrictions regarding vehicle circulation, restaurant occupancy, limits on gatherings and others, and these were just increased (again) in January-February.*

*As for visiting Ecuador, the restrictions and the risks would really affect the logistics for the groups. Although the visitor teams could all be vaccinated and have negative PCR tests, as required by USA and Ecuador, this would not avoid a risk for the teams and the local population. It is really too early for us to be able to say when it might be safe to come; even though we would really like to receive Volunteer In Mission Teams this year, with the Bishop and Church leaders, we think that the best option is to postpone all visits to 2022.*

*The churches, all friends here miss you, and to continue together in mission for this year we will plan virtual mission visits and work; we would like to invite you to be part of this effort. Even when we are far from each other, we can share, pray, praise, and have Bible studies together. We would like you to be able to maintain organizing and planning as a group and we will be able to plan shared activities via zoom or videos, possibly on the same dates that would have planned your trip. For churches in Ecuador, it would be a blessing to stay in touch even virtually.*

*Our hope is that over the next months we will be able to see major improvements in governments actions to save lives and achieve greater equity in vaccine distribution in the world. In addition to the health crisis, the economic crisis continues to have a strong impact on the lives of families, without jobs and without enough food this is a very difficult situation for many families. The Church is still in mission; although most churches in the cities continue their activities virtually, some churches outside of the cities have Sunday Services with restrictions and biosecurity. We all continue to focus on spiritual, emotional and health accompaniment, looking for ways to meet the needs of pastors and communities.*

*In such difficult times, we thank God for the contribution of your Church for Pastoral Salary Support, Construction, or support for Children's Ministries. You are part of God's Mission in Ecuador.*

*Every day at 3pm from home, all the Ecuadorian churches remain in a prayer chain. Our world needs this unity in prayer and spirit. We hope that you feel blessed, as daily, many friends remember you and pray for you.*

*Dios les bendiga,*

*Sara Flores and Dakin Cook  
UMC Missionaries serving in Ecuador*

At the end of Sara's email she mentioned support through contributions for Pastoral Salary Support, Construction, and Children's ministries. These three areas that Sara mentioned are Board of Global Ministry missions in Ecuador through something called The Advance. The Advance is an accountable, voluntary giving platform that supports the worldwide mission of the United Methodist Church. More than \$1.6 billion has been contributed to missionaries and mission projects since the Advance was founded in 1948. The Advance offers hundreds of giving opportunities around the world including three in Ecuador.

- **Building Churches and Parsonages** – Providing and repairing churches and parsonages for pastor's families to facilitate their ministry. #3021546
- **Integral Ministry for Children** – Attending to the spiritual, educational and health needs of at-risk children and teenagers. #3021530
- **Pastoral Support** – Providing a supplement to achieve a fair and just salary for pastors. #3021092

During the season of Lent, I'm asking us to consider making a donation to one of these mission opportunities in Ecuador. You can decide which Advance project you feel most passion for and send/bring a check made out to the Woodbury UMC to the church with the project name & number (#) in the memo line. The WUMC will then send cumulative checks for each project to the Advance where 100% of each gift will go directly to the designated Advance project.

If you have any questions regarding these giving opportunities please feel free to contact me at any time. In the words of John Wesley, "All the world is my parish." May it be so for us.

Paul Hibbard, Chair  
Mission and Outreach Team  
[paulgyl@aol.com](mailto:paulgyl@aol.com)  
860-488-7705 (cell)  
203-405-1005 (home)

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## Children & Youth Ministry

### @ HOME RESOURCES for continued Christian Education

- <https://www.cokesburykids.com/free-resources>
- <https://www.nyac.com/childrenministries>
- <https://ministry-to-children.com/>
- Scripture Reading: Mark 1:9-15 The Baptism & Testing of Jesus

### Children & Youth Ministry Programming

- Our Lenten Sunday School series will begin on Ash Wednesday, February 17. Look for a video to be posted to the WUMC Facebook page by 5pm.
  - Parents please send Catherine a picture of your children's baptism for inclusion in the February Sunday School video. Please get it to her by February 18.
  - There are still two spaces available if your family would like to do one of the Sunday School videos, March 25, Maundy Thursday and April 4, Easter. Let Meg or Catherine know if interested and they will connect you to the lectionary texts to work from and any child friendly resources you may need.
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## Kudo Korner

**Thanks** to *Venetia Phillippe* and *Rynn Naylor* for decorating the sanctuary for Lent.

**Ongoing thanks** to those who offer their technical and artistic skill to make our worship services visually accessible and attractive (*Theron Kissinger* and *Chris Shay*); and to those who keep the sanctuary sanitized and safe for in-person worshipers (*Mark Davis* and *Bud Behlman*). They received a well-deserved day off on the February 14 "respite" Sunday provided by the NYAC.

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## The Prayer Corner:

**In the hospital:** *Michael Etcheto*, grandson of *Barbara Etcheto* (in ICU at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford following an auto-pedestrian accident).

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

**Recovering at home:** *Amber Craig*; *Lynn Cullen*; *John Fleming*; *Josh Harwood*; *Gary McClendon*; *Steve Thomas*; *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); Antonio Stillitano, grandson of Paul Hatch

**Outpatient treatments:** Dave Brencher, Bob Asman, Mary Wilkins, sister of Barb Hunt (Rochester, NY); 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:** 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); 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](http://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](mailto: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!**