



WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 Church Street
Woodbury, CT 06798
www.woodburyumc.net

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Rev. John A. Thomason, Pastor

Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, April 2, 2020

Please join us for HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Remote only

- Livestreaming on **Facebook**: go to www.woodburyumc.net, click on the Facebook icon. No personal Facebook account is required.
- On **Instagram** go to woodburyumcct.
- **Audio only**: dial 203-633-3808 (no PIN required); please remember to mute your phones during the service to eliminate background noise.

PLEASE NOTE: We traditionally share in an **Ecumenical Good Friday service** and **Easter Sunrise service** with two neighboring Woodbury congregations. **Both of these services have been canceled this year due to the pandemic.**

April 5: Palm/Passion Sunday, 10:30 am Sacrament of Holy Communion

This service embodies the sharp contrasts of Holy Week. In the **Liturgy of the Palms**, we remember the joyous demonstration of loyalty to Jesus as he enters Jerusalem. In the **Liturgy of the Passion**, we confront and respond to the story of Jesus' final hours leading up to his death on the cross.

This year, Palm/Passion Sunday happens to fall on the first Sunday of the month when we routinely celebrate **Holy Communion**. After reading the story of the Last Supper from the Passion narrative, we will share Holy Communion remotely. Worshipers are invited to purchase their own Communion elements and partake at home after Pastor John's words of consecration. For more information and instruction, please see Pastor John's April 1 "Life of the Church" article.

Palm Readings:

Matthew 21:1-11; Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29

Passion Readings:

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 26:15 – 27:54

Please note: Our original intention was to make palm fronds available for members and friends to pick up outside the church prior to Palm/Passion Sunday. In response to a directive from Bishop Thomas Bickerton to all NYAC churches, palm fronds will **not** be distributed as a health precaution.

April 9: Maundy Thursday, 7:00 pm Sacrament of Holy Communion

On **Maundy Thursday** (also called Holy Thursday), Christians commemorate the supper Jesus shared with his disciples before the crucifixion, when Jesus washed the disciples' feet and instituted the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. After Holy Communion is shared (again, remotely), the chancel will be stripped of all liturgical items, symbolizing the desolation and abandonment of Jesus' long night in Gethsemane and what followed.

Pastor's Sermon: *Distance and Intimacy at the Table*

Scripture Readings:

**Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19;
1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35**

April 10: Good Friday, 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

In lieu of the Ecumenical Good Friday service, which was canceled, WUMC will offer our own time of reflection on Jesus' crucifixion. A slide presentation of **The Stations of the Cross** will be livestreamed at 7:00 PM, accompanied by Scripture readings and brief meditations.

Please Join Us for Fellowship Hours

A remote FELLOWSHIP HOUR is being offered by phone 2 times per week – on **Sundays at 11:45 AM** and **Wednesdays at 7:30 PM** (call in #: 203-633-3808, no PIN required). **Please note:** the Monday night call-in time originally offered has been discontinued. WUMC members are invited to use this forum to stay in touch, pray together, express joys/concerns, ask questions, and seek assistance.

Strengthening our Communication

Watch for significant changes to our church's website www.woodburyumc.net. Lay Leader *Mark Davis* is working with our communications team (*Bill Wilhelms, Mollie Cole, and Emilie Cole*) to revise the home page to make key new features and quick references to new web-based tools more accessible. This will provide a one-stop-resource for staying in touch and remotely participating in the life of the church. Thanks to this capable team for making our website more user-friendly and helpful.

Connecting with our Methodist Neighbors and the Woodbury Community

WUMC is part of the "Valley Cooperative Parish," a network of neighboring Methodist churches spanning Greater Waterbury and the Naugatuck Valley. **Our cooperative parish is setting aside Mondays as a day of concentrated prayer while we endure the pandemic.** Individuals are asked to pray for a half-hour each across a 24-hour period. To sign up to participate on Monday, April 6, follow the link:

<https://pastorjimfumc.wufoo.com/forms/zy19j2y1jrd3j/>.

Dear Parents and Friends of Region 14,

The Woodbury Foodbank and Bethlehem Cares are in need our help. Nonperishable food is quickly being used by families in need during this difficult time. As a family, we need to work together to help by spreading the word that there is a need and to also begin collecting for our food pantries to help replenish their supply.

Since we are providing lunches for every Region 14 student, being picked up at both Mitchell Elementary School and Bethlehem Elementary School already, it makes sense to use these areas for food drop off as well. Every day from 12:00 -1:00 pm, a bin will be placed next to the sandwich pick-up for drop off of nonperishable items. If you cannot make it during that time, we will have a bin outside Woodbury Middle School front doors every day. You need only drive up and drop off to donate.

In times of stress, you can rely on our community, our family. Especially during times like this we must to continue to help support each other.

As always, if you need me, please call me at 860-318-6566.

With great thanks,



Dr. O

Ongoing Collection for Woodbury Food Bank

FROM THE MISSION & OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM:

As the Covid-19 pandemic progresses, the Woodbury Food Bank continues to provide for the most vulnerable in our community. They need our help in keeping the Food Bank well stocked so those who have difficulty affording food and those who are unable to get to the grocery store can still receive this basic need. To help in this cause a container will be placed on the porch of the church every day from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. where people can drop off nonperishable food items. And on Thursday of each week items collected will be brought to the Food Bank. Our collection will begin this Saturday, March 28th, and continue until church services resume. Any questions please call Paul Hibbard at 203-405-1005 or email at paulgy1@aol.com.

FROM THE WOODBURY FOOD BANK:

I would be most grateful for your help in spreading the word about our priority donation needs and expanded hours to receive food donations at the Woodbury Food Bank (see detailed list on the last page of the Messenger). You will note that we now will be staffed to receive donations from 9 am to noon Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 am to 2 pm Fridays, and 9 to 11 am Saturdays. Please also note that we are observing social distancing guidance by placing a designated donation table outside the Food Bank, allowing donors to drop off donations on this table and then return to their vehicles before our volunteers pick up the donations to bring into the Food Bank for processing. We are most fortunate for so many good friends like you who make our work possible at the Food Bank in these most challenging times.

Wishing you peace and be well,
Bob

Robert Taylor, President
Community Services Council of Woodbury, Inc.
203-263-3869

Please visit this site <http://csofwoodburyct.org> to read the latest news on the Community Services Council of Woodbury, Inc.

LENTEN ADULT STUDY

Our adult Lenten study of Adam Hamilton's book, *The Walk*, will conclude next Tuesday, April 7, starting at 6:30 PM. Just dial the church's conference call number (203-633-3808 – no pin required) and you're in. Our final session will focus on chapter 6, (*The Five Practices from the Cross*), led by Pastor John.

CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

The Children & Youth Ministry sends greetings & well wishes to all. Our teachers & leaders miss all. We invite our families to explore the story of Jesus and Palm Sunday together this week. Below are resources for Palm Sunday. An updated resource list is also attached to use through Easter to continue Christian education. (Please see the attachment with the Messenger)

APRIL 5, 2020 – PALM SUNDAY

<https://youtu.be/n8j8802Mw-0> (The Donkey That No One Could Ride – A picture book by Anthony DeStefano video reading of the book posted by the author)

<https://ministry-to-children.com/palm-sunday-bible-study-for-kid>

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<https://youtu.be/ITmbTuutBgg> (Video about Palm Sunday – Children & Teens)

<https://youtu.be/0rdrcHLIs5c> (Skit Guys - Upper elementary, teens, adults)

<https://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/debbie-mcdaniel/5-things-about-palm-sunday-that-remind-us-christ-is-king.html> (@

Home resource with variety of information, activities & prayer.

<https://youtu.be/VIUk0YCi15w> (Video of Palm Sunday Story - Children)

Kudo Korner

As a sign of community solidarity, WUMC is participating in a ritual of bell-ringing taking place throughout the town of Woodbury each night at 8:00 PM. Thanks to *Rev. Paul Hibbard* for being the faithful bell ringer from our church steeple each night. Paul is also coordinating WUMC's efforts to provide additional food for the Woodbury Food Bank during the pandemic. All of this on top of his regular duties on the front line of patient care as a hospital chaplain. We are deeply grateful for Paul's service to our church and community.

The Prayer Corner:

Congratulations to *Erv* and *Sharon Story* upon the birth of a granddaughter, *Anniston Grace Story*, on March 29 in Torrington. The proud parents are *Kyle* and *Melissa Story*.

In the hospital: *Alivia Marie Craig-Markey* (Waterbury Hospital, neo-natal intensive care); *Rev. John Esposito*, pastor of Gaylordsville UMC and friend of Pastor John (Danbury Hospital ICU)

Home from the hospital: *Krysta Rondini*, granddaughter of *Nancy Clark* (Danbury Hospital); a C-Section is planned for April 10 for the arrival of Baby Girl *Ella*.

Home from inpatient rehabilitation: *Robert Ayers*, father of *Tacy Nettleton* (Woodstock, GA)

Hospice care at home: *Paula Girard*, mother-in-law of *Rynn Naylor*

Inpatient rehabilitation: *Cordelia Ursone*, mother of *Rick Richardson* (Greenwich Woods Rehab Center, Greenwich, CT); *Jimmy Rakiposki* (River Glen, Southbury); *Marie Petty*, aunt of *Kathy Craig* (Abbott Terrace, Waterbury)

Recovering at home: *Dave Davison*, father-in-law of *Gary McClendon*; *Paul Weber*, friend of *Joy Eusebio* (Hardeeville, SC); *Carl Hinkle*, father of *Toby McGrath* (Greensburg, PA); *Gary Williams*; *Donna Louise Burke*, friend of *Kathy Craig*; *Peter Gallagher*, father of *Jen Carnes* (Brookfield, CT); *Lou Calabrese* (husband of *Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese*); *Abby Cloud*; *Jane King*, mother of *Stephen King* and mother-in-law of *Joann King* (Sarasota, FL); *Antonio Stillitano*, grandson of *Paul Hatch*

Outpatient treatments: *John and Jackie Fleming*; *Gerry Furlong* (Leesburg, FL); *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: *Joy Eusebio*, *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.

Fellowship Hosts and Altar Flower Opportunities:

THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR FLOWERS AND FELLOWSHIP FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2020. This year's flower & fellowship host charts are posted in Fellowship Hall. Sign up to get the date of your choice! Each ministry team has been asked to volunteer for Fellowship.

If you want your flowers dedicated in the bulletin for a special occasion, please be sure to make us aware of that when ordering. Payment for the flower order should accompany the yellow order slip and left in Kathy's mailbox in the office or dropped in the Sunday plate, in advance of the order date.

If you don't have an occasion but would like to donate a floral tribute to one of our homebound members, please do so and Pastor John will deliver the arrangement during the following week.

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.** 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!!!

A Message from Jay Hockenberry ~ Got Extra Time on Your Hands. . .

Hi Folks - I have heard several people say they are going stir-crazy sitting in the house with nothing to do. I stumbled on a web site that offers free online college courses from very prestigious schools. The site is Coursera.

- Go on the internet and search on Coursera.
- Once on the site, you can search for courses on many different subjects.
- After you sign on to the site you will receive an email allowing you to access the course you select.
- **Note:** They will keep offering an official completion certificate for \$49, but just skip past the offers and you can complete the course for free.
- I am currently taking "Learning How to Learn" from McMasters University and the University of California, San Diego.
- I plan to take "European Civilization, 1648-1945" from Yale University next.

I hope this helps to break up the boredom,
Thanks... Jay

News from the Community:

Hello everyone,

As are 99% the list of events that we had planned - those have either been postponed (mostly) or cancelled. I will be putting together an email that will be prepared to be sent out to you all the week of what would have been our meeting date. In the time between now and then, there *should* be a better handle on what is going on and what will go on in terms of the towns, state and nation, and updates as warranted that apply to ASAP will be included in that email.

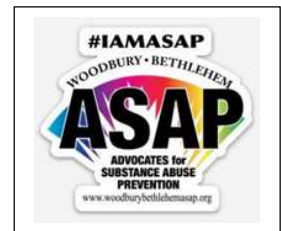
I will say that despite the veritable near shut down of what was our normal lives, ASAP still has irons in the fire for new and repeating events, and ASAP still has an active and vibrant social media presence. Corona virus can't stop us from doing the important things, it just makes us rethink how to do them - temporarily.

Until then, continue to take EXCELLENT care of yourselves, your families and loved ones, check in on each other, help another when you can, reach out to a shut in...all the good things we as humans have the capability of doing. And keep in your prayers the safety of all of our first responders, and those working in hospitals, pharmacies, grocery stores, etc. who are keeping the semblance of normalcy. SOMEHOW we will come out on the other side of this stronger and wiser.

Best Regards,

Jeff McKenna

Project Director & Co-Chair
Woodbury-Bethlehem Advocates for Substance Abuse Prevention (ASAP)
P.O. Box 909
Woodbury, CT 06798
<https://twitter.com/AsapWb>
<https://www.facebook.com/ASAPWoodburyBethlehem/>



PRIORITY NEEDS LIST FOR WOODBURY FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Soups, especially broths, chowders, pea soup, minestrone, vegetable, chicken combo, beef combo
Pastas of all kinds, especially ziti, penne, linguine, fettucine, angel hair, rigatoni, bowties & lasagna
Pasta sauces, all kinds
Canned tomatoes, especially whole, diced, crushed & paste
Canned carrots, canned mixed vegetables, canned peas & canned spinach
Cereals & oatmeal
Juice bottles & juice boxes/pouches
Paper towels & napkins
Toilet paper & facial tissues
Canned fruits, especially fruit cocktail, peaches, pears & pineapple
Fruit cups, apple sauce cups, pudding cups & granola bars
Plain rice & rice mixes
Boxed plain & boxed flavored potatoes, & canned yams
Instant pudding mix & Jell-o
Peanut butter & jellies/jams
Canned chili
Canned chicken
Canned hash
Canned pasta such as spaghetti & mini-ravioli
Canned beef stew
Canned tuna & canned salmon
Canned baked beans
Canned pork & beans
Canned kidney beans
Brownie & cake mixes
Quick bread & muffin mixes
Pancake/waffle mixes
Regular, half-caf & decaf ground coffee, instant regular & decaf coffee, & black, green & decaf teas
Ketchup, mustard & mayo
Cooking oil (vegetable, canola, corn & olive)
Dish detergent & laundry detergent
Toothpaste
Deodorant (men's and women's)
Shampoo & conditioner
Bar soaps & body wash
Organic, low-carb & gluten-free food products
Pet foods

Please note: Donations of bleach, sanitizing wipes & sanitizing liquid to maintain a clean & safe Food Bank environment for staff to prepare assistance packages are also appreciated.

Donations are received Wednesdays and Thursdays, 9 am to noon; Fridays, 9 am to 2 pm; and Saturdays, 9 to 11 am, at the Food Bank (basement level of the Newtown Savings Bank branch). Please take the driveway on either side of the LaBonne's plaza building to the rear delivery lot, and drop off goods on the designated Donation Table outside the Food Bank; our staff will keep proper social distance and pick up your donation once you have completed your dropoff. Thanks so very much on behalf of our clients and volunteers for offering the gifts of nourishment and compassion!



APRIL BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AT WUMC

Beth Buzzannco	6 th
Venetia Phillippe	7 th
Paul Beavers Sr.	8 th
Jillian Palomba	10 th
Austin Carnes	11 th
Nancy Clark, Seth Northrop & Nana Sledzieski	12 th
Anna Shupenis	17 th
Emilie Cole	18 th
Carolyn Shay	22 nd
Nicole Connolly	23 rd
Dawn Brownell, Joann King, Dave LaManna & Mike Roche	24 th
Bob Asman	25 th
Steve Thomas, Sr. & John Thomas	26 th
David & Danielle McClendon	27 th

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL,
BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS ARE ON THEIR WAY!**