



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, May 20, 2020

Please join us for Remote services!

Playback begins at 10:30 am

- The Sunday worship service may be accessed using the first link at the top left of the church home page at <http://www.woodburyumc.net>. You may also continue to access through Facebook or Instagram if you prefer.
- Audio only: An audio-only playback of the worship service will also be broadcast via telephone at the appointed hour. You may listen to this broadcast by dialing (701) 802-5464. When prompted, enter the PIN with hash sign: 659965#. Please mute your phones to eliminate background noise.
- Archived worship service videos are also available on the church website by using the 'Archived Worship Services' near the bottom of the main pull-down menu.

PLEASE NOTE: We suggest that you get on the website a couple of minutes early so you will be ready to receive the playback when it starts at 10:30 AM.

May 24, 10:30 am

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Ascension Sunday

Ascension Day is the 40th day after Easter when Christ ascended into heaven (Acts 1:1-11). Our observance will be held on the Sunday after Ascension Day. At the end of the worship hour, the Paschal Candle will be taken out of the sanctuary, symbolizing the light of Christ becoming available to the whole world through his ascension.

May 24 is also the Sunday before **Memorial Day** on the nation's calendar. *Kate Keeler* will sing "America the Beautiful" as a Prelude, and *Chris Shay* will play an arrangement of the "Navy Hymn" ("Eternal Father, Strong to Save") as the Postlude.

On the 7th **Sunday of Easter**, *Joann King* will serve as liturgist; *Mary Grace* and *Elizabeth Styblo* will lead the Children's Time, with *Andrew* serving as cameraman. A collage of singers will lead hymns and present an anthem.

Pastor's Sermon: *Do Not Be Surprised*

Lectionary Readings:

Acts 1:6-14; Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35; 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11; John 17:1-11

Pentecost Is Coming on May 31!

Please Join Us for a Church Birthday Party!

The **Day of Pentecost** recalls the gift of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples and the birth of the Church. This year's Pentecost service happens to fall on a 5th Sunday, an occasion on the calendar when WUMC seeks to offer worship in innovative ways. For our Pentecost service on May 31, you are invited to a "birthday party" for Christ's Church.

Worshippers are encouraged to record a brief (one minute maximum) cellphone video at home – a simple greeting, an update on how you're doing, a joy, or a concern. The videos will be assembled and played during the Pentecost service (in lieu of our regular time of Joys and Concerns).

Please submit your videos to our worship service editor, *Theron Kissinger*, at polger33@gmail.com. Theron will send a "received" reply to everyone. Next **Thursday, May 28 is the deadline for submissions**. Let's celebrate the birthday of the universal Church and our fellowship as a local church!

Spring Has Sprung!

NOTE from Board of Trustees: Since we don't have an actual Spring Clean-Up Day scheduled, please feel free to come by and work on the church property whenever you want. Bring a rake, shovel, gloves and of course, your mask! Pick one of the sunny warm days in the next week or two and enjoy your peaceful time. We will be scheduling something in the near future so watch for the upcoming date. Thanks to all in advance!



See and Talk to Your Church Friends! A New Format for Sunday Fellowship Hour

From Mark Davis, Lay Leader

Please note: the Wednesday Fellowship Hour is being discontinued.

A remote FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sunday at about 11:20 am) will continue to be offered by online video conference with the option for audio-only call-in.

Join Zoom Meeting URL/link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82364695207>

Or you can join via Zoom app or Zoom web portal with Meeting ID: 823-6469-5207 (no password).

Available audio-only call-in numbers are: (415) 762-9988 or (646) 568-7788. Follow the verbal prompt to enter the meeting ID: 823-6469-5207 followed by the # key. Simply press # key when prompted for participant ID.

WUMC members and friends are invited to use this forum to stay in touch, pray together, express joys/concerns, ask questions, and seek assistance.

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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Stay Up-to-Date on WUMC's Website

The *Messenger*, the previous Sunday's sermon, and the next Sunday's worship bulletin are now being sent out by email as links to the church's website rather than as an attachment. Please take a few minutes to browse the website for the wide variety of information it provides. The website will be increasingly emphasized as a means of communication for our church family, not only in response to the pandemic but as an ongoing resource for remaining current on WUMC's ministry and mission.

Children & Youth Ministry

Important Announcement for graduating WUMC High School Seniors: Congratulations on your upcoming graduation. WUMC would like to honor & recognize you. Information & a new **Scholarship Request form** for 2020 are available through the WUMC website. If you would like to receive a WUMC Scholarship &/or be recognized in WUMC Graduate Recognition publicity (Messenger, special worship bulletin insert, etc.) please complete this fillable form and submit to catherine.mason02@outlook.com no later than **Tuesday, June 2, 2020**.

The **Graduate Recognition Worship Service** was scheduled for **June 21, 2020**. With the current uncertainty, we will update graduates & parents as the next few weeks bring more clarity as to whether or not we will be able to gather in some form on that date or a later date this summer to honor and celebrate the accomplishments of WUMC seniors.

Attention 8th Grade & College Grad Parents: WUMC would also like to recognize those that are completing 8th grade or graduating from college. Please let us know if your son or daughter is celebrating these transitions as well.

WUMC Youth Group – Family Service Project: Signs for Hope Please help create yard signs to thank and honor front-liners and essential workers for display in the WUMC yard along our fence. WUMC Lay Leader Mark Davis is coordinating the purchase of signs that each family may pick up from the front porch of the church, decorate at home (with paint &/or permanent markers) & then return to church and post their sign in the yard. Mr. Davis is purchasing paintable advertisement signs (approx. 18-20" signs). Please email Catherine.mason02@outlook.com if you would like to participate so that he can purchase the correct amount of signs. **The signs are available for pick up as of today.**

THIS WEEK'S CHILDREN & YOUTH RESOURCES FOR @ HOME:

Children's Sunday School @ Home Resources:

1. <https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/promos/family-sunday-school/>
2. <https://www.cokesburykids.com/free-resources/church-at-home/free-deep-blue-sunday-school-lessons-for-home>

Middle School & High School Lesson & Activity Resources:

LinC (Living in Christ)- "Hope" (<https://www.cokesburykids.com/free-resources/church-at-home/linc-hope> and "Lament" <https://www.cokesburykids.com/free-resources/church-at-home/linc-lament>

High School Students, College Students &/or Parents:

- Audio Podcast: "**What Is a Human Life Worth?**" from the **Yale Center for Faith & Culture** by John Hare & Miroslav Volf. <https://mailchi.mp/yale/the-quest-and-question-of-life-for-subscribers-only-miroslav-volf-matt-croasmun-1673349?e=4c2c451780> Suggestion – Youth & parents could listen to this podcast either together or separately and follow with a discussion & reflection together. This podcast is available through Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts and more.

Faith Formation at Home (Parent

Resource): https://www.facebook.com/wearesprkhouse/videos/2519647085021137/?_tn=-R

Extra Resource for Anyone: Comforting video of Psalm 23

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dvrgBYjwst4&feature=youtu.be&utm_content=122633293

Kudo Korner

Congratulations to *Mollie Cole*, who graduated this spring from the University of Bridgeport with a Master's degree in Secondary Education. She will continue student teaching as soon as classes reopen and work toward her teacher's certification.

ATTENTION PARENTS! Please let us know if you have a college student in your family who is graduating this spring. Just call the church office or send us an email. All college graduates, along with middle school and high school graduates, will be recognized this summer, on a date and in a format to be determined.

Thanks to a generous church member who made an anonymous gift to secure a landscaper to spruce up and maintain the church lawn during this time when access to the church is limited.

Thanks to last Sunday's worship leaders: the *Nettleton* family (Children's Time); *Venetia Phillippe* (special music); *David Karraker* (liturgist).

FRONTLINERS...

Each week, as a regular feature of "Kudo Korner," we are recognizing "frontliners" – those who provide essential services to persons in a public setting during a high-risk time. We are honoring members of our church family (and their family members) who deserve our admiration and gratitude for their sacrificial service.

****Beth Buzzannc* began the pandemic season in her customary role as Regional Director of Clinical Services for Hearth Assisted Living. Due to staffing losses and changes, she has added hands-on nursing to her duties. She serves COVID patients in Glastonbury and Madison. Beth's brother, *John Hollenbach*, works in dietary services at St. Mary's Hospital.



****Rebecca Hibbard* has been living at home since classrooms and dormitories closed at the University of Rochester. She has resumed her duties as a volunteer on Saturdays at the Woodbury Food Bank, a role she faithfully filled during her high school years.

****Audrey Karraker*, daughter of *David* and *Larrie Karraker*, has been on our prayer list as a COVID-19 patient. We rejoice in the news that Audrey has made a full recovery and has returned to her duties as a psychiatric social worker at Waterbury Hospital.

****Mary Schivera* continues to serve customers at Ace Hardware in Woodbury.

****Mollie Cole* serves customers at New Morning Market in Woodbury.

PLEASE SHARE WITH US THE NAMES AND GOOD WORKS OF OTHER FRONTLINERS!

The Prayer Corner:

Christian sympathy is extended to *Larry Kaine* and the family of *Luke Smith*, a 20-year old man who died in an auto accident on May 16 in Bethany, CT. Luke's grandfather, *Richard Freeman*, is one of Larry's best friends dating back to their days together in the U.S. Marines.

Please continue to remember persons in our church family who have recently suffered the loss of loved ones: *Joy Eusebio* (*Paul Weber*), *Larry Kaine* (*Betsy Love*)

COVID-19 patients in our church's extended family: *Emily Bodwell* of Newtown, sister of *Matt Bodwell* (health care worker at Danbury Hospital)

Inpatient rehabilitation: *Angelina Vaiuso*, mother of *Karen Williams* (River Glen, Southbury); *Marie Petty*, aunt of *Kathy Craig* (Abbott Terrace, Waterbury)

Recovering at home: *Dominic Vaiuso* of Newtown (father of *Karen Williams*); *Dave Davison*, father-in-law of *Gary McClendon*; Rev. *John Esposito*, pastor of Gaylordsville UMC and friend of Pastor John (recovering from COVID-19); *Cordelia Ursone*, mother of *Rick Richardson* (Darien, CT); *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: *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.

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!

Need a Mask – Contact Christine Shupenis at cschupenis@gmail.com and she will gladly make one for 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!!!!

News from the Town of Woodbury:

TOWN OF WOODBURY
MEMORIAL DAY
 **PARADE**
2020
CANCELLED

**WE ENCOURAGE ALL TO OBSERVE A MINUTE'S
MOMENT OF SILENCE AT 3:00 PM
ON MONDAY, MAY 25TH, 2020**

INSTEAD THE TOWN WOULD LIKE TO ENCOURAGE EVERYONE
TO REMEMBER THE DAY BY FLYING YOUR AMERICAN FLAG AT
YOUR HOME, WEAR PATRIOTIC COLORS, EXPLAIN TO THE
CHILDREN THE MEANING OF THE DAY, AND SHARE A MINUTE'S
SILENCE FOR THOSE WHO GAVE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE.



To Them We Owe

© Don Nielsen

Published: June 2014

Happened today, and in the past;
Sacrifice made, for ours to last.
Wives to widows, families torn;
Gave their lives, for them we mourn.
Gone forever, souls are lost;
Freedom comes, with this cost.
Enjoy the life, they did preserve;
Fate they suffered, did not deserve.
On this day, lest we forget;
To them we owe, our life in debt.

Although we cannot gather together as a community, we will do so again, but let's not let the day go without remembering the true meaning of this holiday and honoring those who went before us so that we could remember them.

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.



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
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