



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, June 17, 2020

Are You Ready to Return? Please Complete the Survey!

Our COVID-19 Recovery Team has designed a survey to gauge the congregation's readiness to resume gathered worship. Your feedback is essential in helping us determine a timetable and format for worshipping in-person again. The survey can be easily accessed on WUMC's website, www.woodburyumc.net, and submitted electronically. Or, you may request a hard copy from the church office. The deadline for receiving completed surveys is June 20th. Thank you for your participation!

Please join us for Remote services at 10:30 am on Sundays

- Go to <http://www.woodburyumc.net> and click the link at the top left of the home page. Facebook and Instagram may also be used.
- **Audio only playback:** 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.

June 21: 3rd Sunday after Pentecost Education Sunday/Father's Day

This Sunday in June is traditionally set aside to honor our church's high school graduates and recognize Sunday School students and teachers at the end of their classroom year. Graduate recognitions have been largely curtailed and Sunday School was suspended early in the year because of the pandemic. However, WUMC still wants to honor those who achieved milestones in school and were faithful in our church's education ministry until it was interrupted.

Children and Youth Ministry Team co-chair *Catherine Mason* will present a slide show during this Sunday's Children's Time to help us celebrate the achievements of our young people and their mentors.

Please note: We are still hoping to honor high school graduates in a gathered worship service later in the summer. Graduates at all levels are listed in the Children and Youth Ministry section of this newsletter.

June 21 is also **Father's Day**, and we will honor our fathers by singing the great hymn, *Faith of Our Fathers*.

This Sunday's worship leaders: *Rebecca Hibbard*, liturgist; *Venetia* and *Morgan Phillippe*, leaders of congregational singing; *Catherine Mason*, Children's Time.

Pastor's Sermon: *Defining Moments*
Lectionary Readings:
Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

Black Lives Matter!

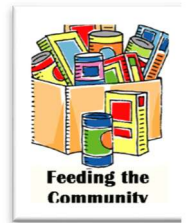
Members of our congregation have been actively responding to the current crisis regarding racial injustice and police brutality. Signs made by WUMC youth in support of racial justice have been placed on our side lawn facing Church Street, and several of our members have participated in recent demonstrations in Woodbury and Southbury.

The next rally in Southbury will be held on Sunday, June 21, at 2:00 PM at the Playhouse Corner (the intersection of Route 6 and South Main Street). Our own *Julia Bower Richardson* is serving as an organizer and spokesperson for the Southbury events.

The next rally in Woodbury will be on Sunday, June 21, at 3:30 PM on the North Green directly across the street from our sanctuary. Pastor John will be one of the speakers at this week's event.

FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE WOODBURY FOOD BANK

Though we are not yet able to worship together, we can still be in mission together as we serve our community. The Woodbury Food Bank has received some generous donations over the last couple of months, but according to Community Services Council Director, Bob Taylor, there are items that need replenishing. With that in mind we would like to encourage members of the WUMC to focus on those needs over the first couple of weeks of June. Continuing through Sunday, June 14th we invite you to drop off items for the Food Bank (see list below) at the church any day that is convenient for you. There will be coolers on the porch where you can leave your donation, and each evening around eight o'clock they will be brought into the church and brought to the Food Bank at the end of the week. Items that are currently needed are:



- Bottled juice and juice boxes.
- Pancake mix
- Pork & Beans or Baked Beans
- Corned Beef Hash
- Any Chowder (Clam, corn, etc.)
- Jellies or Jams
- Ketchup, Mustard, or Mayonnaise
- Brownie Mix
- Canola or Vegetable Oil
- Dish Washing Liquid

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Paul Hibbard, Mission & Outreach Chair

See and Talk to Your Church Friends During Sunday Fellowship Hour

A remote FELLOWSHIP HOUR (Sunday at about 11:20 am) is 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!

Children & Youth Ministry

RESOURCES for @ HOME:

- Cokesbury Kids Free Resources (*children & teens*): <https://www.cokesburykids.com/free-resources/>
- Ministry to Children: "Unity in Christ" <https://ministry-to-children.com/racial-unity-in-christ-lesson/>
- Ministry to Children: "*Father's of the Bible*" (target age 10-14 yrs.) <https://ministry-to-children.com/fathers-of-the-bible-lesson/> & a children's lesson <https://ministry-to-children.com/fathers-day-sunday-school-lesson/>

CELEBRATING FATHERS DAY: Proverbs 4:1-4 NIV - "Listen, my sons, to a father's instruction; pay attention and gain understanding. I give you sound learning, so do not forsake my teaching. For I too was a son to my father, still tender, and cherished by my mother. Then he taught me, and he said to me, "Take hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands, and you will live."

EDUCATION & GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY:

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans." - Proverbs 16:3 NIV

INVITATION: This Sunday, June 21st, please join us in virtually recognizing WUMC Children & Youth programs, teachers & youth leaders as well as WUMC graduates including our high school grads: *Abigail Cloud, Harrison Todd Harwood, Alyna Jones, Emily Paige Matson, Grace Bower Richardson, Samuel Elijah Temple, and Zachary Phillip Varnum.*

The congregation, graduates and families are invited to participate in WUMC's online worship service to be followed by a "virtual" receiving line at approximately 11:20 AM during the WUMC Fellowship Zoom meeting. Zoom Meeting ID: 823-6469-5207 & URL/link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82364695207>.

WUMC congratulates our young people as they celebrate this special milestone. *An in-person worship celebration is pending for later in the summer upon WUMC's re-opening when we can gather together with these special young people.

ALL 2020 WUMC GRADUATES

MIDDLE SCHOOL:

Brady Cordova, Orson Lin, Mary Grace Styblo, and Lydia Hope Temple

HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS:

Grace Bower Richardson, Abigail Cloud, Harrison Todd Harwood, Alyna Jones, Emily Paige Matson, Samuel Elijah Temple, and Zachary Phillip Varnum



COLLEGE: *Anna Bower Richardson – New York University, May 19, 2020; Mollie Cole – University of Bridgeport, May 2020; Andrea Craig – Post University, May, 2020; Emily Lind – American University, May, 2020; Sarah Schivera – Indiana University, April 30, 2020*

Kudo Korner

2020 Nonnewaug High School graduates will be honored with a **Graduation Procession** on Saturday morning, June 20. The procession will pass by the Main Street side of our church building around 9 AM. You are invited to come and give the graduating seniors a wave of support!

Congratulations to *Brian McWhirt*, grandson of *Pat McWhirt* and the late *Dave McWhirt*, who graduated from Watertown High School on June 17. Brian will attend college at the University of Connecticut in Storrs.

On June 10, Memorial Middle School held a drive-by parade and virtual 8th grade graduation ceremony at which *Mary Grace Styblo* received the *Otto Funderburk Memorial Award*. She was honored for her exhibition in Connecticut's State History Day Competition with the *Outstanding Entry Award* by the UCONN Office of Veteran Affairs and Military Programs. In addition, Mary Grace was recognized by Regional School District 15 Superintendent Joshua Smith and U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal as a recipient of the *2020 WCSA Student Recognition Award* from the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents.

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.

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.

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

The Prayer Corner:



Christian sympathy is extended to *Barbara* and *Alan Rego* in the death of Barbara's 20-year old nephew, *Zakariyya Bliss*, on June 13 in Falls River, MA. Services are scheduled for this weekend.

Godspeed to *Laura* and *Stuart Brush*, who are leaving on Friday, June 19, to begin their summer sojourn in Vermont.

Please remember *David Green*, who has been diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Dave and *Glenda* live in the home on Main Street immediately across from the front of the sanctuary. They have been caring neighbors to our church for many years.

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

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.



***Open Hearts, Open Minds,
Open Doors***

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Celebrating 10th anniversary of
Spread the Light!



**Set a star aglow with your generosity:
Join the Community Services Council of Woodbury
In a celebration of hope**

Neighbors reaching out to help neighbors in need

Our Services:

The Community Services Council of Woodbury Inc. operates as an independent 501 (c) (3) nonprofit agency governed by a board of directors that includes clergy from participating faith communities, four elected officers, and representatives of the town government and community. The CSCW works with the Social Services Department of the Town of Woodbury to address the needs of low-income households in our community. Through your generosity:

- The **Woodbury Food Bank** provides weekly access for all authorized clients to obtain staple goods, supplemented by baked goods, meat products and fresh produce. This program serves both to support proper nutrition and to enable client families to conserve scarce financial resources for other household necessities. Introduction of pickup and home delivery services this year has enabled our pantry to keep its commitment during the pandemic while protecting the health and safety of all.
- The CSCW **supplementary energy assistance program** offers additional support to meet urgent heating oil, gas and electricity needs that are not met through assistance available through the state of Connecticut and energy providers.
- The CSCW **crisis assistance program** enables authorized clients to request short-term financial help with critical emergency needs, including housing, medical, utility and transportation obligations.
- The CSCW **holiday program** seeks to brighten the holiday season for client families by providing holiday dinners with all the trimmings through the Food Bank; organizing a "Santa's Shop" for children's gifts; and providing client families with gift cards for holiday shopping.

**Community Services Council of Woodbury Inc.
PO Box 585, Woodbury, CT 06798**

For more information, please contact CSCW President Bob Taylor:
Email address: community.services.council@gmail.com
CSCW office: (203) 263-3869