



## WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 Church Street  
Woodbury, CT 06798

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Rev. John A. Thomason, Pastor

# Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

**PLEASE NOTE** – Both Sunday Service & Pastor's Retirement Celebration Will Be on the North Green beginning at 10:30 AM

June 6: *Second Sunday after Pentecost*

The **Season after Pentecost** is a long season of "Ordinary Time," stretching from Trinity Sunday in the late spring to Christ the King Sunday in the late autumn. The liturgical color is green, symbolizing growth in Christ.

**Pastor's Sermon: *Grace Upon Grace***

**Sermon Texts: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 1:14, 16-18**

**Liturgist: Julia Bower Richardson**

**Reader: Anna Bower Richardson**

**Singers: the Bower Richardson family**

**Children's Time: Anna Bower Richardson and Henry Lytle**

*Pastor's Retirement Celebration*

Due to the number of responses – our church service has been moved to the North Green for Sunday morning. We are trying to accommodate everyone that would like to be here, but also keep everyone safe at the same time. It promises to be a great (hot and humid day) but the love in the air is all we need.

Our celebration will begin right after the worship service with boxed lunches being delivered by LaBonne's and distributed by the Open Doors Ministry. Dessert will be served at 1:00 PM. It will be a service to celebrate our Pastor, and our Friend!

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## Worship Pre-Registration Requested

We rejoice in our increased worship attendance starting with Easter Sunday! Our seating capacity is now 70. To ensure a place for all worshippers to be accommodated safely, the COVID Recovery Team requests that our members and friends resume the practice of pre-registering for services. You may do this on the WUMC website or by calling the church office. . The following is the same link for online reservation of all WUMC events: <https://rsvp.church/r/CqMXUVqE> Thank you for your cooperation!

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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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## 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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## Children & Youth Ministry

@ HOME RESOURCES for continued Christian Education

- <https://www.cokesburykids.com/free-resources>
- <https://www.nyac.com/childrensministries>
- <https://ministry-to-children.com/>
- Scripture Reading: Mark 3:20-35 Jesus Accused By His Family

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## Kudo Korner

**Congratulations** to three WUMC youth who were recognized at Pomperaug Regional High School's Underclassman Award Ceremony held on June 1: *Lydia Temple* - 9th Grade Award for Highest Achievement in English; *Mary Grace Styblo* - 9th Grade Award for Highest Achievement in Social Studies; *Boen Beavers* - 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Award for Highest Achievement in Social Studies.

**Thanks** to last Sunday's worship leaders: *Morgan Phillippe*, Liturgist; *Brady Kissinger*, Reader; *Venetia* and *Morgan Phillippe*, Singers; *Bud Behlman*, *Catherine Mason*, and *Meg Temple*, Christian Education leaders.

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## The Prayer Corner:

**Upcoming surgery:** *Linda Rockhill*, June 8<sup>th</sup>, St. Mary's Hospital

**In the hospital:** *Lawrence "Ed" Rockhill*, father-in-law of *Linda Rockhill* (Waterbury Hospital); *Kinley Mae Drown-Burr*, infant daughter of *Bud Behlman's* cousin, *Jessamie Drown* (Yale-New Haven)

**Home from the hospital:** *Christian Echeveria*, friend of *Kelly Etcheto*

**Outpatient rehabilitation:** *Michael Etcheto*, grandson of *Barbara Etcheto*

**Please remember our Confirmands:** *Cody Cordova*, *Zachary Cordova*, *James Levario*, *Matthew Shupenis*

**Recovering at home:** *Liam McGrath; Robert Mitchell*, brother of *Marci Lowman* (the daughter-in-law of *Marion Lowman*); *Amanda Eager* (friend of the *Temple* family); *Liam McGrath; Caroline Cloud; John Fleming; 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*);

**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!!!



### Open Flower Opportunities for our Sanctuary

June 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> - July 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>

Please contact the office by phone (203) 263-4775 or email [wumc@woodburyumc.net](mailto:wumc@woodburyumc.net) if you would like to order flowers for one of those Sunday worship services.

### 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!**



***Some photos from Education Sunday:***





## A Message from Bishop Bickerton:



### THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Thomas J. Bickerton, Resident Bishop | New York Area Episcopal Office  
Robert M. Walker, Assistant to the Bishop | Pamela Bowe-Tabbs, Administrative Assistant to the Bishop

20 Soundview Ave., White Plains, NY 10606 | 914-615-2221 | bishop@nyac.com

*May 30, 2021*

**TO:** All Clergy, Lay Leaders and Ad Council Chairs of the New York Annual Conference  
**FROM:** Thomas J. Bickerton, Resident Bishop  
**SUBJECT:** An Appeal from Bishop Bickerton for Victims of the St. Vincent Volcano

*Dear Friends & Colleagues,*

*Disaster Response has long been a significant and integral part of the New York Annual Conference mission portfolio. Disasters are frequent and always unpredictable. Over the past five years, NYAC volunteers, resources, and personnel expertise have supported disaster response efforts in Texas, Florida, Haiti, Mozambique, Saipan, Puerto Rico, and the Bahamas. Together, with the United Methodist Committee on Relief, United Methodist Volunteers in Mission, and other United Methodist organizations, we have played a critical role in responding to both the immediate aftermath and long-term recovery efforts that have touched individuals and communities throughout the world.*

*I am writing to you today because we are once again being called upon to provide support where it is needed most. Last month, the La Soufrière volcano on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent began a series of explosive eruptions sending clouds of hot ash some 20,000 feet into the air, covering much of the island in ash, blanketing farmland, and contaminating local water reservoirs. Thousands of people are without homes and reports are that many parts of the island are unrecognizable. Heavy rains are now causing landslides. There are possibilities that eruptions may continue for the coming weeks. In addition, spikes in COVID cases are being seen in shelters.*

*Earlier this month, I spoke with Bishop Derick Richards, Episcopal leader of the South Caribbean District. Present on that call were Reverends Patrick Perrin and Wesley Daniel of the NYAC Caribbean Mission Partnership, and Rev. Tom Vencuss, NYAC Director of Missions and Disaster Response. Bishop Richards provided an update on the situation, the effects of the eruption on his family, local needs, and the work that the Church is doing in response. It saddened my heart to hear the depth of despair and need among our sisters and brothers in St. Vincent.*

*We have several of our New York Annual Conference leaders who are responding in real time:*

- Rev. Gordon Edwards is engaging NYAC clergy specializing in counseling and Disaster Emotional and Spiritual to provide virtual training and workshops for local clergy.*
- Rev. Tom Vencuss is meeting with a St Vincent task force as they develop their long-term recovery plans.*
- Revs. Patrick Perrin, Wesley Daniel, and the Caribbean Mission Partnership will be serving as liaisons between St. Vincent and the NYAC. They will provide me and the Annual Conference with regular updates.*
- We are also supporting New York Congresswoman, the Honorable Yvette Clarke, and her call for the US State Department to immediately provide Temporary Protected Status to people evacuated from the Red Zone on the island of St. Vincent and the Grenadines.*

***These are committed and compassionate responses. Still, there is more that we can do. At my request, the NYAC Missions office has established a dedicated restricted account to receive funds. I am asking each local church in our Annual Conference to consider receiving special offerings for the St. Vincent volcano recovery effort. Checks may be sent to:***

***The New York Annual Conference  
20 Soundview Avenue  
White Plains, NY 10606  
Attention: Fran Collins***

***Please make out your check to NYAC with "St. Vincent response" in the memo line.***

***Given the significant Caribbean presence within our Annual Conference, there are many in our midst who are directly and emotionally effected by this disaster. This alone should make any response we offer, one that touches our hearts with compassion and care. As I Corinthians 12:26 says so simply and eloquently, "If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."***

***No one knows better than I that the times in which we live are difficult. Still, I hope that we can once again respond to our brothers and sisters in need as we have in the past.***

***Search your hearts with me and please respond as you can. For that, I will be truly grateful.  
The Journey Continues, . . .***



***Thomas J. Bickerton  
Resident Bishop***



***New York Conference, 20 Soundview Avenue, White Plains, NY 10606  
Toll free: 888-696-6922 | Phone: 914-997-1570***