



## WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 Church Street  
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Rev. John A. Thomason, Pastor

# Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, June 24, 2020

*From Mark Davis, Lay Leader*

## Plan for Reopening for In-Person Outdoor Worship Service

The WUMC ad hoc COVID-19 Recovery Team (CRT) has been working with several members of the Board of Trustees (BOT) to prepare a plan for reopening the 'doors' of our church for worship services, while ensuring the safety and welfare of our church family and community. We hope to have approval to reopen for in-person outdoor services on the Woodbury North Green in mid-July. I hope you are as excited as I am to see each other in person, even if it is with a mask and without a hug!

A four-phased plan has been developed that ultimately leads to conducting the life of the church in a new way. Based on responses to the recent survey, our phased plan has changed to focus on holding outdoor services until the fall. Plan A (outdoor services) and Plan B (indoor services) have been detailed out and combined into a request for approval by the Connecticut District Superintendent (CDS) of the New York Annual Conference (NYAC).

This week, the Church Council voted to approve the two plans, which will be finalized and submitted to the CDS by the end of this week. We expect to receive approval of the Phase A (outdoor service) plan within two weeks, allowing our first service to be held as early as mid-July. The Phase B plan may require an iteration before final approval. We anticipate being able to hold indoor services in the case of bad weather as early as mid-August. The proposed reopening plan will be posted on our website next week.

I would like to thank the 40+ respondents to our survey, which provided extremely valuable insights, allowing the CRT to make some difficult decisions in finalizing our plans. I would like to thank the following CRT and BOT members who have worked diligently to prepare a plan for allowing us to reopen and see each other soon: *Bud Behlman, Rae Ann Hockenberry, Catherine Mason, Chris Shay, Pastor John Thomason* (CRT); and *Jeff Hunt and Alan Rego* (BOT). It has been a pleasure leading this team to define a thoughtful approach for holding meaningful services in compliance with NYAC guidelines and restrictions. Thanks also to Church Council Chair *Rick Richardson* for his leadership contributions and legal counsel.

## Recognition and Thanks for Our Ongoing Ministry

A number of people have worked hard to continue the ministries of our church during these difficult times, including broadcast of a quality worship service each week. Even more have worked hard to figure out how to safely reopen for in-person worship services. At the risk of overlooking someone because so many people do so many things behind the scenes in support of our ministries, I would like to take this time to thank a number of people whose service to the church over the last several months comes to mind.

I would like to thank *Pastor John*, who has adapted to an entirely new way of preparing for a worship service and providing pastoral care, while participating in numerous conference calls with the Naugatuck Valley Cooperative Parish and NYAC to adapt to the evolving COVID crisis on a week to week basis.

I would also like to thank *Chris Shay* for his innovation and flexibility in bringing us inspirational musical arrangements each week; *Theron Kissinger* for his tireless efforts in conducting multiple recording sessions and editing them into a seamless service; all the liturgists, singers, bell ringers, and others that have prepared special messages for our children each week; *Catherine Mason* for

coordinating weekly children's moments and providing resource materials for at-home Sunday school; *Bill Wilhelms* for his efforts in providing inspirational graphics for inclusion in the worship video.

I would also like to thank *our children* for creating inspirational signs for our church yard, thanking our 'COVID Warriors' and expressing our support for the recent groundswell of protestors seeking social justice for all; *Catherine Mason* and *Leeah Beavers* for coordinating this youth ministry project; *the Hibbard family* for their behind the scenes support of the Woodbury Food Bank; *Paul Hibbard* and *Mike Boisseau* for their nightly ringing of the church bells; *Diane Hibbard*, *Rae Ann Hockenberry*, *Catherine Mason*, *Barb Rego*, *Caroline Shay*, *Christine Shupenis*, and I am sure others for behind the scene calls on behalf of the church to our extended church family to ensure we stay connected and offer support; *Christine* and *Anna Shupenis* for making cloth masks for those in need when such things were in short supply; and *Catherine Mason* for making sure our high school graduates were properly recognized.

I would also like to thank *Bill Wilhelms* for his efforts to continually modify our church website to help us communicate and stay connected; *Toby McGrath* and *Jessie Lynch* for keeping the bills paid and preparing an application, within two days, and securing a CARES Act grant to provide a much needed financial boost in support of our ministries; and *Kathy Craig* for all she does behind the scenes to keep us informed and ensures the life of the church runs smoothly.

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

- Go to <http://www.woodburymc.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 28: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**This Sunday's worship leaders:** *David Karraker*, liturgist; *Carolyn Shay*, soloist and leader of congregational singing; *Paul Beavers, Jr.* and *Leeah Joo*, Children's Time.

### **Pastor's Sermon: *Freedom From and Freedom For***

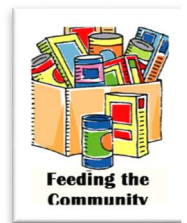
### **Lectionary Readings:**

**Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40**

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## **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 28<sup>th</sup> 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

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## 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.

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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

### RESOURCES for @ HOME

- Cokesbury Kids Free Resources (*children & teens*): <https://www.cokesburykids.com/free-resources/>
- Children's Lectionary Based Lesson: <https://ministry-to-children.com/welcome-others-sunday-school-lesson/>
- **\*Parents please note this new resource: *Deep Blue Life: Faith and Culture—Anti-Racism*** includes three sessions teaching about "Prejudice and Stereotypes," "Curiosity and Empathy," and "Colors and Cultures."
- <https://www.cokesburykids.com/free-resources/deep-blue-life-faith-and-culture> You could adapt these Sunday school lessons for at home family activities & discussions regarding "Anti-Racism".
- LINC Youth Lesson: <https://www.cokesburykids.com/free-resources/linc-hope>

**NOTICE: SUNDAY SCHOOL WRAP UP ONLINE MEETING (Sunday, June 28 @ 6:30 PM):** Parents & children of both Sunday School classes are invited to participate in a Zoom meeting get together hosted by Catherine Mason & Meg Temple to wrap up

Sunday School on **Sunday, June 28 @ 6:30 PM**. Parents are asked to help facilitate children's (especially elementary aged) participation.

Meeting link & password will be shared to register Sunday school parents via email. This Zoom get together will have a structured & planned format to facilitate effectiveness, so please let Catherine Mason, ([catherine.mason02@outlook.com](mailto:catherine.mason02@outlook.com)) know if your family will participate.

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## Kudo Korner

**Special thanks** to *Catherine Mason* for putting together a wonderful slide presentation honoring our high school graduates and Sunday School students and teachers for Education Sunday on June 21.

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

### Have we overlooked any **COLLEGE GRADUATES?**

Please let us know if you have a college student in your family who has graduated this year and has not yet been recognized by our church. Just call the church office or send us an email.

### Have we overlooked any **FRONTLINERS?**

During the early weeks of the pandemic, we honored persons in our church family (and their family members) who are serving as "frontliners" by providing essential services in high-risk settings. Please let us know of any additional persons we might have missed in our previous recognitions.



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## The Prayer Corner:

**In the hospital:** *Paige LeBlanc*, mother of *Jessie Lynch* (surgery on June 25 at Manchester Hospital)

**Home from the hospital:** *Judy Wilhelms*

**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](http://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.**

➔ **SUMMER Office Hours begin next week- Tuesday thru Thursday only 9 am – 12 noon.** 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!!!

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## 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!**



*Open Hearts, Open Minds,  
Open Doors*

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## JULY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AT WUMC

Kevin Connolly	July 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Rod Carnes	July 5 <sup>th</sup>
Elizabeth Styblo	July 8 <sup>th</sup>
Mary Grace Styblo	July 11 <sup>th</sup>
Paul Hatch	July 12 <sup>th</sup>
Emily Rego	July 15 <sup>th</sup>
Gillian Griswold	July 16 <sup>th</sup>
Ava Nicole Kelly	July 18 <sup>th</sup>
Taylor Kissinger & Andrew Styblo	July 19 <sup>th</sup>
Mollie Cole, Brady Cordova	July 23 <sup>rd</sup>
David Brencher	July 24 <sup>th</sup>
Dylan Thomas	July 25 <sup>th</sup>
Amber Craig	July 29 <sup>th</sup>
Amanda Cloud	July 30 <sup>th</sup>

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