



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 9, 2021

Thank You Seems So Small

How does one begin to thank everyone that came out to support Pastor John's Retirement Celebration in any way? From the gifts of love in many fashions to sitting in 90 plus degree temperature, all to honor a man that has filled so many roles in all our lives over the past 8 years. He has not only been our pastor, but has grown to be a friend and confidante to all.

When the idea of a celebration event came about, both Theron and I immediately offered to chair the event. We knew it would be a task at hand but we never dreamed to have the amount of people that would help pull this off. We can't thank you enough for helping in the great celebration it was. We have attempted to list everyone involved and we hope we have not left anyone off. If so, please know it was not intentional and we will recognize you next week; but for now we again say Thank You:

Chris Shay, Program Chair; *Carolyn Shay*, assisted with dignitaries; *Mark Davis* and *Bud Behlman*, various roles from CRT Team Reps., Set-Up and Breakdown; *Rae Ann* and *Jay Hockenberry*, table check-in and taking temperatures.

Theron, *Taylor* and *Brady Kissinger*, *Alan Rego*, *Sarah Kate* and *Garret Walkup*, *Andi* and *Kathy Craig*, *Dave Markey*, *Joann King*, *Carolyn* and *Chris Shay*; *Morgan* and *Venetia Phillippe* (with her amazing altar display) – all on Set-Up.

The Food Tent was serviced by members of the Open Doors Ministry Team under the leadership of Chair, *Lynn Cullen*, along with *JoAnn Behlman*, *Joann King*, *Barbara* and *Jeff Hunt*, and *Sue Vindigni*. The food, cake and extra waters were donated by four generous anonymous individuals, thank you, thank you, thank you and thank you!

Event Program participants: *Rick Richardson*, MC; *Kathy Bower*, *Anna* and *Julia Richardson*, *Carolyn Shay*, *Morgan* and *Venetia Phillippe*, *Kate Keeler*, and *Sarah Kate Walkup*, Singers; *Matt Bodwell*, *Dylan Keeler*, and *Rod Carnes*, Singers/Musicians.

Breakdown – all Set-Up people previously mentioned and joined by *Jeff Hunt*, *Mike Boisseau*, *Rev. Paul Hibbard*, *TJ*, *John* and *Tres Fimmano*, and *Andrew Styblo*.

Audio Visual Effects – countless hours before and after the event by *Theron Kissinger*. Thank you to everyone that sent in photos to be displayed during the celebration. For those of you that were not able to attend or for those of you that would like to watch the celebration again, both Sunday's service and the celebration will be posted to our website by this Friday morning. Simply go to our website or our YouTube channel (Woodbury United Methodist Church).

Publicity – we contacted various news channels and newspapers but none were present. There will be a press release in the local Voices newspaper, as well as a Social Moments page in the Waterbury Republican American newspaper. Stay tuned for those.

So, as you can see there were many, many, many hands that helped with this amazing event and again thank you seems so small but we truly appreciate your help!

Kathy Craig and *Theron Kissinger*, Event Co-Chairs

June 13: Third 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: "Let Us Run with Perseverance"
Sermon Texts: Hebrews 11 (excerpts); 12:1-2

Readers: the Cloud family
Singers: the Cloud family
Children's Time: the Cloud family

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 worshipers 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!

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 4:26-34 Parable of the Growing Seed

Kudo Korner

Thanks to last Sunday's worship leaders: *Julia Bower Richardson*, Liturgist; *Anna Bower Richardson*, Reader; *the Bower Richardson family*, Singers; *Anna Bower Richardson* and *Henry Lytle*, Children's Time.

The Prayer Corner:

Upcoming surgery: *Linda Rockhill*, June 21st, St. Mary's Hospital (has been postponed since last Messenger printing)

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)

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

Recovering at home: *Liam McGrath*; *Christian Echeveria*, friend of *Kelly Etcheto*; *Robert Mitchell*, brother of *Marci Lowman* (the daughter-in-law of *Marion Lowman*); *Amanda Eager* (friend of the *Temple* family); *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 remember our Confirmands: *Cody Cordova*, *Zachary Cordova*, *James Levario*, *Matthew Shupenis*

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 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. This is also important to keep track of any of our college students as well!!!



Open Flower Opportunities for our Sanctuary

June 27th - July 4th, 18th

Please contact the office by phone (203) 263-4775 or email 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 the Retirement Celebration:



First Selectwoman, Barbara Perkinson



Members of WUMC



Rev. Sandy Koenig, North Congregational Church



Pastor mingles under a tent – Paul Beavers, Jr. in conversation???



Kathy Craig presents church plaque



Bob Taylor of Woodbury Community Services Council



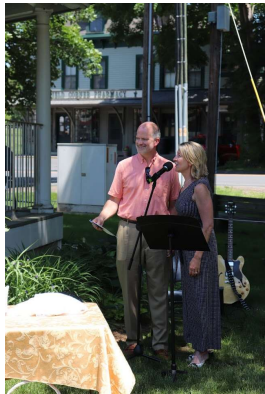
*Mark Davis reads letter from
Bishop Bickerton*



*Bud Behlman presents the
MVP game ball
(Most Valuable Pastor)*



The Dignitary Tent



*The Comedy Team
of Bower &
Richardson*



Our Praise Band



*Staff Parish Chairs presenting
Retirement gift to Pastor John*



*Two of the newest
members
Dave Markey &
Alivia Craig-Markey*



A group of our WUMC singers



*The Bower Richardson
Singing Family*



*Two familiar faces – so glad
you could make it!
Lynn & Dave Brencher*



*And our love and prayers go
with you on your new journey!*

A Message from Bishop Bickerton:



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
NEW YORK EPISCOPAL AREA

20 SOUNDVIEW AVENUE
WHITE PLAINS, NY 10606

THOMAS J. BICKERTON
RESIDENT BISHOP

ROBERT M. WALKER
ASSISTANT TO THE BISHOP

PAMELA BOWE-TABBS
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

June 3, 2021

Rev. John Thomason
Woodbury United Methodist Church
4 Church Street
Woodbury, CT 06798

Dear John,

May grace and peace be yours today.

Thank you for the invitation to attend your retirement celebration. I regret that I am unable to share this significant milestone with you, but I want you to know that your 28 year ministry as a servant in the United Methodist Church is appreciated. Undoubtedly you have encountered much throughout your ministry and I commend you for walking in faith, love and obedience as you faithfully honored the call placed on your life.

John, you have shown great leadership and provided wonderful support to me and to many. Stay well, my friend, and know always that you are loved.

The Journey Continues, . . .

Peace & Joy,

Thomas J. Bickerton
Resident Bishop