



WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 Church Street
Woodbury, CT 06798

Website: www.woodburyumc.net

Office: (203) 263-4775 • Fax: (203) 263-5867

Email: www.woodburyumc.net



Rev. John A. Thomason, Pastor

Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Easter Worship Pre-Registration

We are happily anticipating larger in-person attendance on Easter Sunday! **PLEASE NOTE:** We are asking all persons who plan to attend Easter worship on April 4 to pre-register. You may do so on the WUMC website or by calling the church office. In keeping with COVID protocols, our sanctuary capacity remains at 50. If our in-person gathering exceeds that number, persons who have not pre-registered will be directed to overflow space in Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.



Holy Week

March 28: Palm/Passion Sunday

Palm/Passion Sunday embodies the sharp contrasts of Holy Week: the celebration of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, followed by a somber remembrance of his death on Good Friday.

Pastor's Sermon:

Final Words from the Cross:

"It Is Finished"

"Father, Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit"

Texts: Mark 1:1-11; John 19:29-30; Luke 23:44-49

Liturgist: Anna Bower Richardson
Reader: Rick Richardson
Children's Time Leaders: Anna and Rick Richardson
Singers: Anna Bower Richardson, Kathy Bower, Rick Richardson

April 1: Maundy Thursday

A Service of Word and Table
7:00 PM, Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday recalls Jesus' Last Supper with the disciples, when he instituted the Lord's Supper and washed the feet of the twelve. Our Maundy Thursday service will be climaxed by the celebration of the Lord's Supper. Communion kits are available for home distribution by calling the church office or Worship chair *Venetia Phillippe* (918-706-2637).

Pastor's Sermon:

Last Words at the Last Supper

Texts: 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Liturgist: Rynn Naylor

Singers: Kate Keeler and Carolyn Shay

Handbells: Jeff and Barb Hunt

April 2: Good Friday

Ecumenical Good Friday Service
Hosted by St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Woodbury
6:30 PM

Rev. John Thomason, Preacher

Christopher Shay, Organist

April 4: Easter Sunday

Ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service
Sacrament of Holy Communion
7:00 AM, Hollow Park, Woodbury

Easter Worship at WUMC
Sacrament of Holy Communion
10:30 AM, Sanctuary

Lenten Study Concludes

During Lent, the Tuesday night Bible Study Fellowship group is reading and discussing Adam Hamilton's book, *Final Words from the Cross*. This study is coordinated with Pastor John's sermon series on the 7 Last Words of Christ.

The group will have its final meeting on Tuesday, March 30, from 6:30 – 8:00 PM, both in-person in Fellowship Hall and by Zoom. The online link is clearly identified on the first page of the WUMC website. Books are still available in the church office.

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.
-

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!
-

Valley Parish Lenten Prayer Vigil A Prayer by Rynn Naylor

The Valley Cooperative Parish held a Lenten Prayer Vigil on Tuesday, March 23. Nineteen people participated in the Zoom gathering. Prayers were offered for a number of current concerns. *Rynn Naylor* represented WUMC at the Prayer Vigil and offered the following prayer about the challenges created by the COVID pandemic:

Lord God of all creation,

Such havoc has been released upon this world, from hustling and bustling to quarantining and solitude, all had stopped. Like the enslaved Israelites called out to you to be freed from their bondage in Egypt, your world cries out to you to be freed from the bondage of COVID. Our family, friends and neighbors die without our comforting presence. Always you are present with them, and You, God, send the caregivers to bring your love and peace to them. Yet, it is not quite the same. You created us to be in relationship with You and one another.

This evil that has darkened the world, it endeavors to destroy us. But to your glory, we remember that Christ defeated the evil one by His death and resurrection. This time of COVID is a period calling us to harken back to you, to put our trust in Your love for us, that love that overpowers all adversity. We are ever thankful, for your promise is to always be with us and never forsake us. We pray for your strength and guidance in these times, that we might be your hands and feet to bring your love, comfort, and compassion to the lost and to be in relationship with one another. We are thankful for all those who have cared for the sick and dying. We give thanks for the frontline workers who keep us living our daily lives. We remember all those called home during this

time of pandemic. We ask comfort and peace for those who are grieving. As we slowly begin to emerge into a new world – a new way of being in your creation – may we be ever aware of your hand in everything.

As we come to remember and celebrate the death and resurrection of your beloved Son, may we be reborn each new day into your loving kingdom, opening our hearts and minds to remember we are more than conquerors. You walk with us each day. May this be a time where people hear your call and answer, where we fearlessly carry the gospel into the world, that all may know your saving grace through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

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 11:1-11 and John 12:12-16 Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

Children & Youth Ministry Programming

- Our Lenten Sunday School series continues Sunday, March 28, led by the Joo/Beaver Family.
 - Easter [Sunday, April 4](#), is still available if your family would like to do a Sunday school video. Let Meg or Catherine know if interested, and they will connect you to the lectionary texts to work from and any child friendly resources you may need.
-

MISSION ECUADOR

Just a reminder that during this season of Lent, we as a congregation are being asked to support anew our sisters and brothers in Christ in Ecuador as they seek to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the people there. Our main connection with the church's ministry in Ecuador is through UMC missionary, *Sara Flores* and her husband, *Dakin Cook*. In an email that was shared in earlier editions of the *Messenger*, Sara and Dakin highlighted the Methodist Church's work through something called the Advance. This is a UMC vehicle to fund various mission projects around the world.

There are three projects the Advance supports in Ecuador:

- **Building Churches and Parsonages** – Providing and repairing churches and parsonages for pastor's families to facilitate their ministry. #3021546
- **Integral Ministry for Children** – Attending to the spiritual, educational and health needs of at-risk children and teenagers. #3021530
- **Pastoral Support** – Providing a supplement to achieve a fair and just salary for pastors. #3021092

During the season of Lent please consider making a donation to one of these mission opportunities in Ecuador. You can decide which Advance project you feel most passion for and send/bring a check made out to the Woodbury UMC to the church with the project name & number (#) in the memo line. The WUMC will then send cumulative checks for each project to the Advance where 100% of each gift will go directly to the designated Advance project.

Also please consider praying with the churches of Ecuador every day at 3:00 pm (4:00 pm after Daylight Savings Time which they don't observe in Ecuador). Sara wrote the following about their prayer ministry: *"Every day at 3 pm from home, all the Ecuadorian churches remain in a prayer chain. Our world needs this unity in prayer and spirit. We hope that you feel blessed, as daily, many friends remember you and pray for you."*

May we join our voices with our sisters and brothers in Ecuador as often as we can, remembering that they are lifting us in their prayers. May we be a blessing to one another.

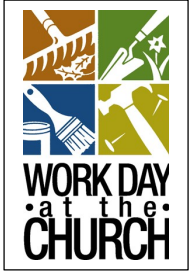
If you have any questions regarding these giving opportunities please feel free to contact me at any time. In the words of John Wesley, "All the world is my parish." May it be so for us.

Paul Hibbard, Chair, Mission and Outreach Team

paulgyl@aol.com

860-488-7705 (cell)

203-405-1005 (home)



Work Day at WUMC

This Saturday, March 27th

Beginning at 9 AM – Members of WUMC and the Board of Trustees will be gathering to spruce up the inside and outside in anticipation of Spring! They are looking for volunteers who are willing to help rake, sweep, wash windows and anything that needs attention. Any youth who need community service hours, this is a great way to gather those and get credit too. Please bring your gloves, rakes, and lots of energy. Thank you in advance.

Thank you to all from Michael Etcheto's family

The Etcheto/Lowrey clan would like to thank all of our wonderful WUMC family, near and far, for your support. Your kind thoughts, prayers, cards and emails have supported Mike, and us, through this difficult time. We are thrilled to report that Mike is making a wonderful recovery. He was moved into a transitional house on Monday, March 22, for intense occupational and physical therapy. But, he is walking and talking, and gets to come home for weekends after this. Bless you all for your amazing and loving spirits.

In deepest gratitude, Barbara Etcheto

Kudo Korner

Anna Shupenis was featured in an article and two photos in the March 24 edition of the **Republican-American**. Anna was pictured feeding a baby goat as part of her responsibility with the Nonnewaug High School Vo-Ag department. Congratulations, Anna. (see the last pages of the Messenger for the article.)

Thanks to last Sunday's worship leaders: *Joann King*, Liturgist and Children's Time leader; *Rev. Paul Beavers, Sr.*, *Dylan* and *Kate Keeler*, *Joann King*, and *Todd Purcell*, singers.

The Prayer Corner:

In the hospital: *Michael Etcheto*, grandson of *Barbara Etcheto* (Gaylord, Wallingford); *Amelia Eager*, a friend of the Temple family (heart surgery on March 24 at Boston Children's Hospital)

Please remember our Confirmands: *Cody Cordova*, *Zachary Cordova*, *James Levario*, *Matthew Shupenis*; their teachers: *Catherine Mason*, *Meg Temple*, *John Thomason*; and their mentors: *Mike Boisseau*, *Mollie Cole*, *Rev. Paul Hibbard*, *Carolyn Shay*.

Recovering at home: *Laura Brush* (outpatient eye surgery on March 19); *Brett Toomes* (fiancé of *Lindsey Behlman*); *Sue Vindigni*, *Amber Craig*; *John Fleming*; *Josh Harwood*; *Gary McClendon*; *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*); *Antonio Stillitano*, grandson of *Paul Hatch*

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 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!!!



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!

NEW KID ON BLOCK

Nonnewaug High vo-ag program gets back to work with animals



PHOTOS BY JIM SHANNON REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Anna Shupen, 15, of Bethlehem, feeds a baby goat Tuesday at the Nonnewaug High School vo-ag department in Woodbury. Five baby goats, or kids, were born last week under the care of a veterinarian, but the doe did not make it. The school has had its annual spring birth with piglets, chicks and lambs.

BY HANNA SNYDER GAMBINI
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

EACH spring brings the arrival of newborn animals at Nonnewaug High School, and vo-ag students are also returning to the hands-on learning of raising livestock after missing out last year due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

New to the department so far this year are five kids, three baby lambs, chicks and piglets, said vo-ag Director Ed Belinsky.

See **BABIES**, Page 6A



Piglets born March 3 feed off their mother Tuesday afternoon at Nonnewaug High School in Woodbury.



SEE MORE PHOTOS AT REP-AM.COM



PHOTOS BY JIM SHANNON REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

Nonnewaug High School students Tristan Ocasio, 15, of Bethlehem, right, and Anna Shupen, 15, of Bethlehem, tend to the sheep and newborn lambs Tuesday at the school's vo-ag department in Woodbury.

BABIES: Online learning just not the same

Continued from Page One

A calf is due in the next few weeks and another goat is expecting kids soon.

He said spring is always a busy time of year in vo-ag, and he's happy that Nonnewaug students are able to get back to the in-person learning.

When schools moved to on-line learning last March, students — especially those studying ag production and veterinary science — missed out on much of the hands-on experiences, which are a huge part of vo-ag education, Belinsky said. Students have been back in school full time for about a month now, and have their hands full with all the new arrivals.

Also, a mother goat died from delivery complications, so her five kids must be bottle fed by students and staff every two to three hours, 24 hours a day, Belinsky said.

He said it's a sad occurrence but something that sometimes happens and can't be prevented. He said it



Students Olivia Graffari, 16, of Prospect, right, and Kayla Cote, 16, of Bethlehem, tend to the sheep and newborn lambs.

helps students learn that life and birth and death are all part of the process when it

comes to raising livestock. He said the hand-on learning is "incredibly important"

in the vo-ag educational experience, and also "it's a really fun time of year."