

Woodbury
United Methodist Church



Sunday, September 4th, 2022

10:45 am

Woodbury United Methodist Church

September 4, 2022

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE

GREETING

*A CALL TO WORSHIP FOR LABOR DAY SUNDAY

Joann King, Liturgist

Come, all who labor and are weighed down with responsibility, uncertainty, and worry.

We come, because the load we carry is heavier than we can bear alone.

Come, all you who seek to relate work and worship, leisure and service, into a meaningful whole.

We gather for spiritual renewal and practical challenge, for help in making choices and carrying out our commitments.

Come, sinner and saint, with your hatreds and loves, your failures and successes, your sorrows and joys.

We respond to the Spirit's leading and open ourselves to receive God's gracious gifts.

*OPENING HYMN *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* UMH #103

*A BLESSING FOR WORKERS AND ALL SEEKING WORK (unison)

Blessed are you, ever-creating God,

in your image, our lives are made;

in your glory, we offer all the work of our hearts and hands and minds.

Blessed are you, O God, now and forever!

Blessed are you whose work is repaid,

for by your work, and by the payment you receive

your lives and the lives of others around you and around the world are blessed.

We thank God for you day by day.

Blessed are you whose work is unpaid,

who offer what you can to enrich the lives of others,

**through time, talents, skill, strength, and love.
We praise God for your generous labor!
Blessed are you who seek work but have not found it,
or whose work now is not yet what it may be
yet still you seek, that your gifts may be shared more fully.
We praise God for your diligent seeking and pray you may soon find!
Yours is the glory in their labors.
Yours be the glory in all our lives, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Philemon 1:1-21

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

UMH #128

He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought

SERMON

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Hospitality – a warm welcome – is generosity. When we welcome each child of God into the life of this church, we extend God's own generous hospitality. Our gifts help this graceful ministry to flourish and to grow and to give glory to God. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY SOLO

A Place at the Table

Carolyn Shay, mezzo

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

UMH #95

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above the Heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost;
Amen!

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We offer you, Lord, ourselves and our work. Please accept it as a token of our gratitude to you, and in the hope that it will contribute to the building of your kingdom on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Precious Lord, strip away the mask I wear during the week. Lay my soul bare before you today. Let me see genuine love. Show me the love that hates evil and holds on to what is good. Strip away the mask that holds my emotions in check when I should share your love with someone. Let me see the joy of giving to others. Show me the power of blessing those who persecute me. Strip away the mask that grins and lies and lets the world think otherwise about a child of God.

Silence.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

An altar, a pew, a seat on the bus, a kitchen table: all become holy places when we confess before God. Today, in this holy place, God meets us, hears us and forgives us. In this holy place, God empowers us with genuine love to share with a hurting world. Be for God, a holy loving people.

WE GATHER AT THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

As the sun sets earlier, the days become cooler, and the crops near harvest, we celebrate the plenitude of fruits available to us. We acknowledge the ways that we can use our gifts to care for our siblings in need. We extend this table through the work of our hands and the missions of this church.

As we celebrate this sacrament, may we remember the laborers in the fields:
The harvesters of the wheat and grapes.
The transporters of their yields.
Those who transform wheat into bread and grapes into juice.

Bless their hands and feet as they labor at farms and gardens, in trucks and warehouses. We give thanks for the ones who prepare the table here today.

May their gifts of preparation and hospitality inspire us to extend hospitality to the strangers among us.

After laboring on the streets of Jerusalem—Doing justice, loving kindness, and walking humbly with God—Jesus clutched bread in his hands. He blessed the food, gave thanks, and heartfully expressed to his friends that this was the bread of life. “As you eat this bread, remember me.”

After supper, Jesus grasped the cup filled with the gifts of the vine. In his blessing, he reminded them “whenever you drink of this cup, remember me.”

Spirit of wisdom and of wonder, wind around these elements today. May they stir us from stagnation into actively loving God, our neighbors, and ourselves. May our participation at this table transform us into the people God is calling us to be.

With gratitude, we gather at this table. As we take a piece of bread, let us experience the love of God as seen in Jesus the Christ. As we immerse the bread into the cup, let us remember the grace that pours from God.

BREAKING THE BREAD AND LIFTING THE CUP

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE LORDS PRAYER (unison)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the Spirit of God bless the great table of Christ. May the Spirit of God help us recognize God’s grace in the breaking of the bread and in the pouring of the cup. May the Spirit of God encourage us to embrace our divine callings, as we all work to create God’s realm here on earth. Amen.

WE SEEK GOD’S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

*CLOSING HYMN *Wonderful Words of Life* UMH #600

BENEDICTION

Lord, please look on us with grace;
watch over us with love;
and surround us with peace. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE God is So Good Pat Barrett

*Elements of this service may be taken or adapted from UMC Discipleship.org or the Abingdon Worship Annual 2022, Copyright 2022 by Abingdon Press. Communion liturgy written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian. Confession and Assurance by Kwasi I. Kena, The Africana Worship Book: Year A, Discipleship Resources, 2006, p. 149.)
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Visitors are warmly welcomed!

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today:
*Joann King, Liturgist & Reader; Mollie Cole and Joann King, Greeters and Ushers;
Theron Kissinger, Audio Visual Technician*

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.

Rev. J. Michael Cobb, Pastor
Pastor's e-mail: pastormichael@woodburyumc.net

Meg Temple, Lay Leader
Chris Shay, Director of Music
Matti Papparazzo, Administrative Assistant

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The Prayer Corner

In prayer, please remember the people of Ukraine; Bill Wilhelms; Bob and Martha Asman; Barbara Etcheto; Michael Etcheto, grandson of Barbara Etcheto; Linda Bailey; Anders, uncle of Diane Hibbard; Melissa, daughter Pete Vindigni; Aurelia (Watertown congregant); Jeff, who is recovering from surgery (Watertown congregant); Bonnie Stevens; protection for our church, our volunteers, and our congregants.

Love the Handbells? Join us!

The WUMC handbell choir invites all interested ringers - high-school-age through adult - to “come aboard” for the season – no experience necessary! Plans include several light-hearted accompaniments to Biblical “dramas” shared during services of worship; first up is “Noah and the Ark” on October 16. Rehearsals take place on Wednesdays from 6-7:15 pm in the Assembly Room. For more information, contact Chris Shay: 2cshay@gmail.com; or Barb Hunt: babs2597@gmail.com.

Farewell and Good Luck to Theron!

Please join us September 24th in Fellowship Hall to wish Theron good luck on his new adventures in New Mexico. RSVP by September 12th, and let someone know if you would like to help or bring anything.

Good Enough: Bible Study starting September 20th

Tuesday night Bible study resumes on **September 20**. We will continue for the next eight weeks to read and study Kate Bowler’s book, *Good Enough*. *Good Enough* is a compassionate, intelligent, and wry series of Christian daily reflections on learning to live with imperfection in a culture of self-help that promotes endless progress. Life is a chronic condition.

Everyone is welcome to join us this fall. Because the book is divided into 40 individual reflections, you can jump right in with us!

Meetings are held on zoom from 6:30 to 7:45 PM on Tuesdays. You will receive a syllabus outlining the readings and containing the zoom link when you sign up. You may sign up by contacting the church office or contacting Meg directly. The book is available on Amazon. See Meg (megtemple1@gmail.com) if you need assistance getting a copy.

Who to contact when Pastor Michael is away

Pastor Michael is away, returning September 12th.

*For pastoral care emergencies, please contact Rev. Sandra Mantz at 845-546-7173.
[For all other needs, please contact the WUMC church office.*

Something Big is Coming September 18th

Join us for worship at our new worship time, 10:45, as we move back into our sanctuary to kick off the fall. Fall begins with something exceptional: the first of our 3rd Sundays, focused on family and children. Each includes a worship service with stories, songs and more with children in mind, and classes for children and adults to go deeper into the scripture. No age group is left out, and we will even have lunch and birthday cake!

Worship begins at 10:45, with a shortened format to allow Adult and Children's Sunday school right after worship, so all can participate without taking up your whole afternoon.

Welcome back to church! This is going to be a great year, and we are excited for your whole family to be part of it!

What will Methodism be in 2023?

For many churchgoers, denomination isn't a big factor in finding a place to worship, so you may belong to a church for years and not give it much thought. This is your big chance to see for yourself what being a United Methodist congregation is all about, and how being United Methodist impacts everything we do both as a church and as individual Christians.

Pastor Michael will be offering an introduction to Methodism class via Zoom beginning in a few weeks. This class is for those interested in joining the congregation, but it is also for anyone wanting to know more about Methodist history and how it impacts the present day. All are welcome — and if you've never taken a class on Methodism, you are strongly encouraged to take this class. If you are curious about the future of the denomination, or how it may change, this class will explore those issues while giving you a grounding in our current beliefs and practices.

Please contact Pastor Michael for more information.

Annual Picnic Success

Thank you to everyone who made this year's picnic such a success! We loved gathering to worship with all of you and look forward to next year. There are some pictures up on Instagram, so go check those out and add your own if you have some. Don't forget to tag yourself!

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
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& /woodburyumc