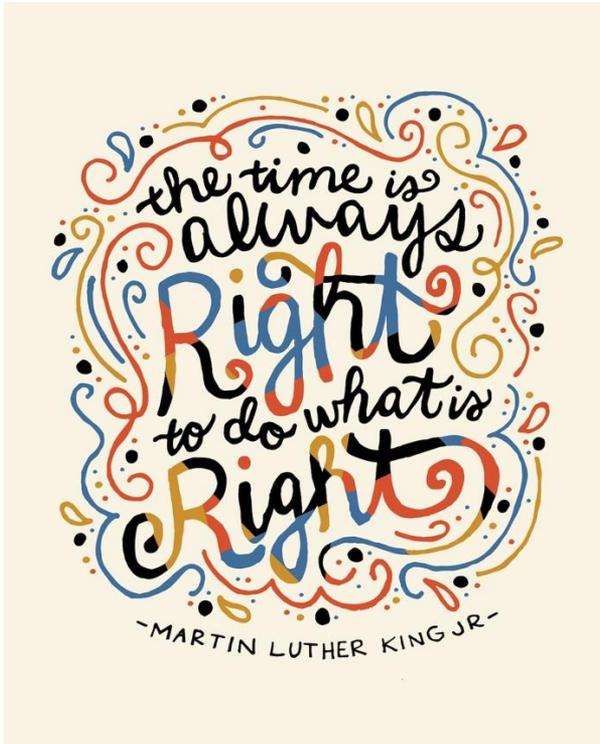


Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, January 15, 2023

10:45am Worship

Woodbury United Methodist Church

January 15, 2023

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE

Come Sunday

Duke Ellington

*CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship God,

Who creates us and loves us;

Who gifts us with diversity and makes us for community;

Who gives Jesus Christ to show us how to live;

Who inspires children, youth, young adults, and people of all ages,

To seek justice, share power,

and live together in love and equality;

Who invites us to join the struggle for wholeness and wellbeing for all,

and whose presence, grace, and love

sustain us in our living.

We gather to worship God.

To God be all glory, honor, and praise!

*OPENING HYMN

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

UMH #404

OPENING AFFIRMATION

Loving God, take this day our fears our worries, distractions, and all
Turn them into grace and mercy.

May we hear, and follow, graciously. May we love as you love.

I refuse to believe that we are unable to influence the events around
us.

I refuse to believe we are bound by racism, war, and injustice.

I believe those around me are my brother and my sister.

I believe in dignity every day and that our brokenness can be healed.

I believe we can overcome oppression and violence, without
resorting to it.

This means I seek to reject revenge and retaliation.

I remember, "Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can."
Holy One, through trials and turbulence,
May we love as you love.

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.

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Epistle Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

HYMN OF PREPARATION

UMH #500 v 1, 5

Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

SERMON

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Every gift we need is already here. Let us bring our gifts, whether we deem them small or large, and trust that they are enough.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

A Place at the Table

TFWS #3149

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

UMH #95

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lamb of God, bless these gifts with your mercy and your grace. Shine through these gifts with your light and love, that our ministries and

our church may be a beacon of light and love, revealing your presence to our world. **Amen.**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

*CLOSING HYMN *Soon and Very Soon* UMH #706 v 1, 3

*BENEDICTION

As the Savior so taught...
go now and overcome.
Overcome racial hatred with love and understanding.
Overcome sexism with mutual honor and respect.
Overcome social inequities
with fair and equal educational and employment opportunities.
Overcome mean-heartedness with a kind word or good deed.
Overcome war, poverty, hunger, and suffering
throughout our urban streets and lands abroad,
by sharing the love of Christ Jesus with your neighbor.
Go now and overcome!

POSTLUDE *I Want to be Ready* Smith

Please join us downstairs for a time of fellowship and refreshment.

Elements of this service may be taken or adapted from UMC Discipleship.org or the Abingdon Worship Annual 2022, Copyright 2022 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission. Call to Worship from the 13th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, posted on the Presbyterian Church USA website. Benediction adapted from The AfricanAmericanLectionary.org. Affirmation drawn from the writings of Martin Luther King, Jr. by Abigail Reichard.

*Please stand as you are able.

Visitors are warmly welcomed!

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: Carolyn Shay, Liturgist; Sue and Pete Vindigni, Greeters and Ushers; Shannon Cobb, AV Tech

The Prayer Corner

Prayers of comfort and peace for the families of Rob Bronson and Erv Story; for god's, loving care and healing and prayers of comfort, healing, and strength for Bob and Martha Asman, who continue to face medical challenges.

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 Paparazzo, Administrative Assistant

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT, 06798

203-263-4775 www.woodburyumc.net

Church e-mail: wumc@woodburyumc.net

Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 21st

Memorial for Erv Story @ Woodbury UMC, 11am

MLK Day Reading and Discussion

On Sunday January 15, there will be a 3pm gathering at the Mattatuck Unitarian Universalist Society (283 Main Street North, Southbury) for a reading and discussion of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's *Letter From a Birmingham Jail*. Pastor Michael will be participating and invites all interested to join him. (Did you know that Dr. King wrote this in response to a letter signed (among others) by two Methodist Bishops?)

Erv Story Memorial Saturday January 21

We will gather to remember our friend and brother Erv Story on Saturday, January 21 at Woodbury UMC. Viewing hours are at 10am, with a memorial service to follow at 11am.

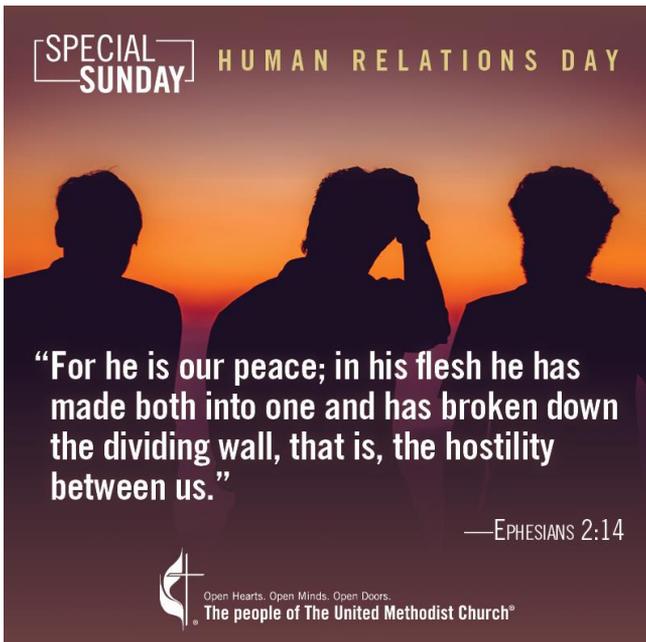
Class on the UMC Social Principles starts Monday

January 23

Pastor Michael will spend three weeks going through UMC belief on all manner of social issues, including sexuality, gender, economic justice, the environment, guns, the death penalty, reproductive health including abortion, globalization, human trafficking, and much more. Statements on these challenging and often contentious issues are articulated in our Social Principles. If you are interested in any of these topics, or if you didn't realize we have Social Principles, this class is for you!

The UMC believes God's love for the world is an active and engaged love, a love seeking justice and liberty. **We cannot just be observers.** We care enough about people's lives to risk interpreting God's love, to take a stand, to call each of us into a response, no matter how controversial or complex. The job of the church helps us think and act out a faith perspective, not just responding to all the other influences that exist in our society. How do we do that? In part, through our Social Principles, which speak to issues in the contemporary world.

The class is offered **Mondays January 23, 30, and February 6, 6:30-7:15 via zoom.** You can get a copy of the social principles in the fellowship hall (suggested donation \$8). Any questions, please ask Pastor Michael.



SPECIAL SUNDAY HUMAN RELATIONS DAY

“For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us.”

—EPHESIANS 2:14

 Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
The people of The United Methodist Church®