

Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, February 19, 2023

10:45am Worship

Woodbury United Methodist Church

February 19, 2023

Transfiguration Sunday

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE

The Potters Hand

Arranged by Larson

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord our God and King!
Glorious and powerful is the God of all creation!
In reverent awe, we gather to worship our God.

The Lord our God is King and the Just Judge
of all things for all eternity, all people and all places.
In reverent awe, we gather to praise our God.

The Lord our God is King and the Forgiving God!
'Fairness' and 'Justice' are the names of our God.
**In reverent awe, we gather to worship God, within
the light of God's holiness, justice, mercy and love. Amen.**

*OPENING HYMN

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

UMH #404

AN OPENING PRAYER OF TRANSFIGURATION

Holy One,
We come before you,
many of us feeling like we have climbed just a part of the mountain,
and there is so much more of a climb left to even get to point
to dream that we might be dazzled by what is Divine.

Our loads are heavy, with worry, with regret, with fatigue, with
illness, with despair for all in the world that is hurting, in danger, in
bondage and more.

We trudge ahead, following you, stumbling, hoping, praying... breathing hard, hearts pounding, and yes, even some of us are nimble and skipping.

Lead us Lord, to the top of that mountain, where we might be dazzled by your Light, lifted by what is Divine, filled by the sheer delight of what is numinous and ethereal and grounded and real.

We pray this, for ourselves, for one another, and for the worlds in which we live in. Hear us now as we come together in the words of the prayer our Lord taught us:

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

Joshua 1:1-9

*HYMN OF PREPARATION *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* UMH #521

SERMON

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

As God has blessed us with the glory of love and light, so God invites us to share these gifts to light God's world.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Brighten My Soul With Sunshine* Joyce Elaine Eilers

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE

UMH #95

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Embolden us, Mighty God,
to give us fully as we have received.
Multiply the gifts we return to you now,
that they may empower the lives of many
with your glory and your grace. **Amen.**

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

*CLOSING HYMN *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* UMH #251

*BENEDICTION

May the Creator who brings light from darkness,
The Spirit who transfigures our torments,
And the Christ who lifts up valleys and brings the mountain's glory
down to earth, make the rough places plain before you and bless you
this day and always.
Go forth, sisters. Go forth, brothers. Do not be afraid.

POSTLUDE *Ain't Got Time to Die* Hal Johnson

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
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*Please stand as you are able.

Visitors are warmly welcomed!

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: Barbara Etcheto, Liturgist; Karen and TJ Fimmano, Greeters and Ushers; Shannon Cobb/Mark Davis, AV Tech

The Prayer Corner

Prayers for comfort, healing, and strength for Bob and Martha Asman, who continue to face medical challenges; prayers for all those affected by the earthquake in Syria and Turkey

Upcoming Events

Tuesday, February 21st

Worship Meeting, 7pm @ Woodbury UMC

Wednesday, February 22nd

Ash Wednesday Service, 7pm @ Watertown UMC

Thursday, February 23rd

Church Council, 7pm @ Woodbury UMC

Sunday, February 26th

Intergenerational Worship, 10:45am @ Woodbury UMC
"The Woman at the Well"

Sunday, March 12th

Intergenerational Worship
Ring-A-Story, 10:45am @ Woodbury UMC

Wednesday, March 15th

Stewardship Meeting, 7pm @ Woodbury UMC

Announcements

- Celebration of birth - Ella June Story was born on February 8, granddaughter of Sharon and Erv Story.
- Celebration of wedding - Liz and Corey on Feb. 18. Liz is daughter of Keith and Elaine Weston. Keith served on the Ecuador mission trip in 2018 and is coordinating the trip this year.

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

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Remembering Pat Gage

If you have ever volunteered time at the Woodbury Food Bank, you know what a tight knit community has come together in support of that work. You didn't have to be there for very long to hear the name of Pat Gage and recognize how much of herself she put into that work. Pat's gentle and reassuring presence, her profound respect and empathy for our neighbors in need, and the love inspired by her faith that she shared with everyone she met — all of these are part of her lasting influence. There will be a celebration of Pat's life this Saturday, February 18, at 11 am at North Congregational Church. This congregation has been a longtime supporter of the Food Bank, so share this recognizing that several of you probably knew Pat. We thank God for Pat and all the good she brought into the world, and ask God's peace with those who are grieving her loss.



UMCOR continues earthquake response

The United Methodist Committee on Relief continues to work with its humanitarian partners to aid earthquake survivors in Turkey and Syria. UMCOR has released initial solidarity grants to International Blue Crescent and Forum for Development Culture and Dialogue to help provide shelter, food and first aid kits to those who have been displaced. Winter weather and a cholera outbreak are complicating the response. Learn more or donate at <https://umcmission.org/umcor/>



SOUTHBURY & WOODBURY

LENT ON THE ROAD

March 1

St. James Lutheran Church
111 Peter Rd., Southbury
Rev. Abby Johnson

March 8

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
294 Main St. South, Woodbury
Rev. Tuesday Rupp

March 15

United Methodist Church
4 Church St., Woodbury
Rev. J. Michael Cobb

March 22

Southbury United Church of Christ
283 Main St N, Southbury
Rev. Shawn Garan and
Rev. Donna Cassidy, of SBCC

March 29

Church of The Epiphany (Episcopal)
262 Main St. North, Southbury
Rev. Marston Price

Wednesdays

6:00 PM Simple Supper

7:00 PM Worship



During this Lenten season, let us journey together as people of the Christian faith from many traditions!

You are invited to gather for a simple supper and worship service each Wednesday evening at a different church in our community. Come fellowship with new neighbors around the table, experience new sacred spaces, and worship the same God in new or different ways. All people of any faith welcome.

Love

HOW TO HELP WHITE CONGREGATIONS OBSERVE BLACK HISTORY MONTH

We reached out to pastors and worship leaders who are or have served mostly white congregations for advice... on why and how to introduce and incorporate Black History Month into their Christian worship, nurture, outreach, and witness.



DO

USE FEBRUARY AS A STARTING POINT for including songs, prayers, theologies of people of African descent throughout the church year.

INVITE WHITE PEOPLE AND OTHERS to share the responsibility for planning and leading your observance. Ask Black members or ministry partners to advise, but don't make it their job.

CREATE A BULLETIN BOARD or page on your website that highlights Black heroes from your community, district, conference, or state.

OFFER VISIBLE AND TANGIBLE SUPPORT.

Donate to causes and organizations working against racism and for justice. Join efforts to repair past harm and bring about transformation.

ENGAGE YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH through Sunday school and community engagement to inspire curiosity about the contributions of Black people in church and society.

START A MUTUAL PULPIT/CHOIR EXCHANGE WITH A BLACK CHURCH. Or host a shared youth event, regularly schedule women's or men's meals, participate in a joint mission project, racial-justice event, etc., with a neighboring Black congregation.

CHALLENGE DENIAL AND FRAGILITY SOME CHURCH MEMBERS MIGHT EXHIBIT. Help your parishioners get used to embracing Black history and naming and confronting racism and white privilege.



DON'T

AVOID ANY ORGANIZATION OR OBSERVANCE JUST BECAUSE THEY FOCUS ON BLACK PEOPLE.

Black history and heritage are often-neglected aspects of our full church and social history. Help your parishioners to make the connection.

"MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE" AND LEAVE THEM THERE.

Make the connection between the gospel teachings about love, justice, and reconciliation and addressing racial disparities and racism.

MAKE THIS THE ONE TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN YOU INVITE YOUR FEW BLACK MEMBERS, the one Black pastor on staff, or Black musicians to "perform" or "entertain" at your church. That's tokenism; seek ongoing engagement instead.

GIVE IN TO THE FEAR THAT THE TOPIC OF RACIAL JUSTICE IS "TOO POLITICAL" FOR CHURCH.

Preach sermons to teach that becoming Christ's beloved community requires us to right wrongs, confess sins of injustice, and work to repair all that racism has harmed or broken.



RELIGION & RACE

The United Methodist Church

www.GCORR.org