

Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, June 9, 2024

Pentecost 3

10:30 AM Worship

Woodbury United Methodist Church

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798 203-263-4775

www.woodburyumc.net Church e-mail: wumc@woodburyumc.net

June 9, 2024

*Please stand as you are able.

For today's message, you are invited to submit, in voice or writing, scriptural and spiritual questions. If you wish to write them, please use the enclosed form that will be collected with the offering.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE "Gaelic Blessing" John Rutter

*CALL TO WORSHIP James Levario, Liturgist

L: May all who love your salvation say, "Great is the Lord!"

P: Yes, our heart is glad in God, because we trust in God's holy name.

L: Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

P: We praise you, O God; we acknowledge you to be the Lord.

ALL: MAY OUR HEARTS AND THIS WORSHIP BE WORTHY OF YOU.

*HYMN "My Hope Is Built" UMH #368

THE COLLECT (*seated, in unison*)

O God, who embodies both mystery and majesty: open our hearts to the transforming power of your love, and our minds to the awesome enlightenment of your wisdom, that we may truly be a people of open hearts and open minds, with doors open to whosoever may come; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O Lord, help us to be discerning in our judgments, for by such you judge us. We confess that our search for certainty and answers sometimes closes the door to deeper conversation with our neighbors and deeper communion with you. Help us to forego easy answers, and remove all cynicism from our questions, that we may find that rest that only comes by resting in You. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

FOR OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WE EXPRESS OUR FAITH

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH “A Modern Affirmation” UMH #885

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS THE PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD’S PRAYER UMH #895

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING, OFFERING OUR GIFTS
AND OFFERING OUR QUESTIONS

ANTHEM “Child of the Lamb” Michael Barrett

*RESPONSE OF PRAISE The Methodist Hymnal, 1964, #181

*We give thee but thine own, Whate’er the gift may be:
All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.”*

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

*PREPARATION HYMN UMH #444

“O Young and Fearless Prophet”

*THE GOSPEL Mark 3:20-35

THE SERMON “Tough Scriptures, Tough Questions” Pastor Brian Bodt

This unscripted message will reflect on the Gospel passage and then move to your scriptural and spiritual questions.

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

*CLOSING HYMN “The Church of Christ, in Every Age” UMH #589

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE “Bring forth the Kingdom” Marty Haugen

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THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.

TODAY AT WOODBURY UMC

FELLOWSHIP TIME follows worship in Fellowship Hall. Please join us downstairs! Don't know the way? Follow the crowd!

IF YOU ARE A VISITOR, our desire is that you experience the warmth of Christ's welcome and ours in this church.

WE THANK TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Liturgist: James Levario

Mark Davis, AV Tech

Greeters and Ushers: Carol Hennessey and Jane Hutter

MEETINGS THIS WEEK:

Worship Committee, TODAY, June 9, 11:45 p.m., Wesley Room

Nominations, Monday, June 10, 7 p.m., Assembly Room

Valley U.M. Cooperative Parish, Thursday, June 13, 7 p.m., Naugatuck UMC.

WE REGRET THE OMISSION of Esther Lin among last Sunday's 8th grade graduates. Esther and her family have received a revised recognition program including Esther's name. We thank them for their graciousness.

NEXT SUNDAY IS FATHER'S DAY

"We Walk by Faith, Not by Sight" is a sermon about faith, based on 2 Corinthians 5:6-17 and Mark 4:26-34. We will celebrate our music ministry, recognize our men, and receive new members. **THIS IS OUR LAST SUNDAY OF 10:30 A.M. WORSHIP UNTIL AUGUST 25.**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN UNITING WITH OUR CHURCH IN MEMBERSHIP, please speak with Pastor Brian **TODAY**.

Immediately after worship in the sanctuary beginning promptly at 11:30 a.m., we will have a brief congregational meeting to affirm the recent action of the Church Council and the General Conference. The text of the motion was distributed in a separate email on Friday, June 7, and is on the rear cover. Fellowship Time will follow in Fellowship Hall.

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.

*The Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt, Pastor
Christopher Shay, Director of Music*

*Jeff and Barbara Hunt, Lay Leaders
Matti Paparazzo, Admin. Assistant*

OUR COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Prayers for today's conclusion of the 225th meeting of the New York Annual Conference, the victims of conflicts in the Middle East, the Ukraine and the Sudan; for those facing life stress, The Vonya Brothers in Kibera, Kenya, and for our congregation's forward momentum.

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

BOOK DROP OFF for the planned Book Sale is in the Narthex box. Bring books on Sunday or drop them off Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 4 pm during Matti Papparazzo's office hours on Thursday. A tentative date will be September 15th.

FOOD DROP OFF for the Woodbury Food Bank may also be left in the Narthex any Sunday or Thursday. See the list of needed items elsewhere in this bulletin. We dedicate these on Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of the month.

WATER DONATIONS DROP OFF: Woodbury UMC is collecting bottled water to be distributed to the Woodbury neighborhood of Edon Acres. Residents of the neighborhood are unable to use their water due to contaminants found in well water at numerous homes.

Donations may be brought to the church at 4 Church St, Woodbury and left on the porch at the Church St. entrance. 1 gallon or larger containers of water are best, but all contributions welcomed.

LITURGISTS for Sunday worship are being scheduled beginning September 8th. This service involves arriving at 10:15 am (9:15 June 23 through August 18) for a sound check and brief review of the provided guidelines and the bulletin, and reading parts of the liturgy and the scriptures for the day. Please contact Pastor Brian (203.747.1781, text/call) or pastor.woodburyumc@gmail.com if interested.

CONFIRMATION CLASS will meet each Monday, 1 – 2:15 p.m., beginning Monday, June 17. The first meeting will determine those Mondays that are unavailable for students or teachers to be present, so if you have a student entering 8th grade or older in the fall who has not been confirmed, this would be the class to attend. At this writing I am aware of two students committed to the study. My goal is to complete classes by early September and schedule Confirmation in the fall, preferably on Reformation Sunday, October 27th. More details to follow.

Pastor Brian

NON-PERISHABLE DONATIONS NEEDED for the Woodbury Food Bank. If you would like to donate any items you can bring them with you to church or drop them off in the Narthex on Thursday when Matti is in office, (between 10-4). The items that are most needed are as follows:

Bottled juice	Cereal	Beef stew	Pancake mix
Peanut butter and jelly	Ketchup and mustard	Cream of chicken soup	
Pasta sauce	Minestrone soup	Clam chowder	
Paper towels	Toilet paper	Deodorant	Toothpaste
Laundry detergent	Dish liquid soap	Shampoo	
Conditioner	Regular and decaffeinated coffee		

Thank you in advance for your donations! *“I was hungry and you gave me food...”* Matthew 25:35

FOR THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Pastor Brian can be reached at pastor.woodburyumc@gmail.com or 203.747.1781. Please reach him when folks are sick or in need of pastoral care. Want a visit? Please let him know. He’d love to meet with you!

Are you on our *“Living through Grace”* weekly email? If not, please contact Matti Paparazzo at wumc@woodburyumc.net. She’ll get you on!

Publication deadline: Administrative Assistant, Matti Paparazzo is on-site Thursdays to print the weekly bulletin and our *“Living through Grace”* e-newsletter. Please send materials to her at any time **but not later than 10 a.m. on Thursday**. Thanks in advance!

WUMC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES – Spring/Summer 2024:

- Weekly lawn mowing/edging on Fridays or Saturdays throughout the season (Church and Parsonage, starting NOW through end of September)
- Finish spring clean-up:
 - Mulch around office entrance, WUMC sign on Main Street, front of parsonage
 - Install Prayer Bench
 - Remove planters by pergola – plant honeysuckles in ground
 - Powerwash/paint fence & pergola, repair fence
 - Replace steps – sanctuary entrance
 - Paint/varnish ramp railing by office entrance
 - Clean parsonage gutters
 - Remove moss – north side of church roof
- Remove gutter – back porch of parsonage & Paint dormer

Please let Toby McGrath know which projects interest you and when you are available to assist at 203-819-1923 or blackdog2006@me.com

Tough Scriptures, Tough Questions
June 9, 2024

I've always wondered about the scripture that says.....

(This doesn't have to be chapter and verse, just a general sense of what you remember the scripture saying.)

A spiritual matter I'd like to ask about is.....

Please tell me more about this teaching of the Church.....

A question that doesn't fit these categories is.....

Name: (optional) _____

(This will only be used to follow up with an answer if we do not get to your question.)

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO AFFIRM ACTION OF THE
WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH COUNCIL
JUNE 16th, 2024**

NEXT SUNDAY the following motion will be presented to the congregation for affirmation in a brief meeting after worship. Questions of clarification regarding the motion and/or UMC polity and procedures will be invited prior to acting on the motion, which notes that the Council will discuss proactive measures to incorporate this affirmation into the life of WUMC.

Whereas, the 2020 General Conference (postponed) of The United Methodist Church, meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina April 23 – May 3, 2024, has removed over a half-century of restrictions regarding the ordination or marriage of persons who identify their sexual orientation as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ), and

Whereas, the Woodbury United Methodist Church (WUMC) has studied and discussed its position on this matter openly over some years, and

Whereas, there is no longer any Church prohibition or risk of reprisal for WUMC to embrace a full welcome to our LGBTQ siblings, and

Whereas, the WUMC Mission Statement begins “We are a welcoming Christian fellowship who celebrate and share God’s love with everyone,” and

Whereas, the WUMC theme statement is “Love Spoken Here,” and

Whereas, the WUMC Church Council voted unanimously at its May 9th, 2024 meeting to affirm “the action of the General Conference...”

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Woodbury United Methodist Church congregation, gathered June 16th, 2024 at 11:30 a.m., affirms the action of the Church Council, celebrates the actions of the General Conference in removing language that excludes LGBTQ people from marriage and ordination, and will be proactive in seeking ways to incorporate these changes in the life of Woodbury United Methodist Church.

Bud Behlman, Church Council Chair
Rev. Dr. Brian R. Bodt, Pastor