

# Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, July 21, 2024

Pentecost 9

9:30 AM Worship

# Woodbury United Methodist Church

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

[www.woodburyumc.net](http://www.woodburyumc.net) Church e-mail: [wumc@woodburyumc.net](mailto:wumc@woodburyumc.net)

## July 21, 2024

\*Please stand as you are able.

### WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Rod Carnes, Sarah Kate Walkup, Matt Bodwell

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

Mark Riefenhauser, Liturgist  
Psalm 84, selected verses

L: How lovely is your dwelling place, LORD Almighty!  
P: *My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD;*  
L: Even the sparrow has found a home,  
P: *a place near your altar, my King and my God.*  
L: Blessed are those who dwell in your house;  
P: *they are ever praising you.*  
L: Blessed are those whose strength is in you,  
P: *whose hearts are set on pilgrimage.*  
L: Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere;  
P: *I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.*

**ALL: Blessed is the one who trusts in you, Lord Almighty! AMEN!**

#### \*HYMN

*"This Is My Father's World"*

UMH #144

#### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A Modern Affirmation, UMH #885

**Liturgist or Lay Speaker:** Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is the one true Church, apostolic and universal, whose holy faith let us now declare.

**People:** *We believe in God the Father, infinite in wisdom, power and love, whose mercy is over all His works, and whose will is ever directed to His children's good.*

*We believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of humankind, the Gift of the Father's unfailing grace, the ground of our hope, and the promise of our deliverance from sin and death.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit as the divine presence in our lives,  
whereby we are kept in perpetual remembrance of the truth of Christ,  
and find strength and help in time of need.*

*We believe that this faith should manifest itself in the service of love as  
set forth in the example of our blessed Lord, to the end that the kingdom  
of God may come upon the earth. Amen.*

FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

**WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

THE EPISTLE Ephesians 2:17-22

\*THE GOSPEL Matthew 16:13-20

\*PREPARATION HYMN "Lord, Speak to Me" UMH #463

THE SERMON "Is the Church 'Off Key'?" Bud Behlman, Lay Speaker

**WE RESPOND IN FAITH**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS 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 AND OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

\*RESPONSE OF PRAISE UMH #95

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**WE GO FORTH IN JOY**

\*CLOSING HYMN "The Church's One Foundation" UMH #546

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE Gale Barna, Guest Organist

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**THE WORSHIP IS ENDED: THE SERVICE BEGINS.**

## TODAY AT WOODBURY UMC

**OUR PREACHER AND WORSHIP LEADER TODAY** is Bud Behlman, serving with Mark Riefenhauser as Liturgist. Bud is our Church Council Chair; Mark plays in the Bell Choir and is being trained in Broadcast Ministry. We rejoice in their leadership today.

### **WE THANK TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Liturgist: Mark Riefenhauser                      Mark Davis, AV Tech  
Fellowship Time Host: Gillian Griswold  
Greeters and Ushers: Anna and Christine Shupenis

**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.

**PASTOR BRIAN** preaches today at Greenfield Hill Congregational Church in Fairfield. He is part-time as Pastor of Community Care there. He will be there next Sunday but retains his Woodbury office days, Monday and Thursday, teaching Confirmation and meetings and visits.

**VISION 2024 EMPHASIS TODAY** is "Spiritual Wellness."

### NEXT SUNDAY

**Our preacher will be Financial Secretary Rynn Naylor** with Liturgist Lynne Ramsden-Calabrese. Rynn's sermon, "*God of Abundance*," will be based on John 5:46 - 6:14 and Ephesians 3:14-21. It addresses how God provides throughout time for His people and how we, by faith, are called to be part of that work. We will have a Mission Moment from Jeff McKenna, Executive Director of the Community Services Council of Woodbury. Please honor God by attending worship.

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### 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              Jeff and Barbara Hunt, Lay Leaders  
Christopher Shay, Director of Music      Matti Paparazzo, Admin. Assistant*

## OUR COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Prayers for victims of conflicts in the Middle East, the Ukraine and the Sudan; for those facing life stress, and for our congregation's forward momentum.

## MEETINGS THIS WEEK

### MONDAY, JULY 22

CONFIRMATION, 1- 2:15 p.m., *Assembly Room*

### TUESDAY, JULY 23

FAMILY NUTURE AND HOSPITALITY, 7 p.m., *Pastor's Office*

## MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

**THANKS FOR BRINGING IN SNACK BARS** for the Brian's Bag collection. **Next week:** foil packets of tuna. See the detailed notice about Brian's Bag Homeless Project.

**ALTAR FLOWERS** are welcomed during the summer months from the gardens of members and friends. Bring them any Sunday.

**BOOK DROP OFF** for the fall Book Sale is in the Narthex. Bring books on Sunday or Thursdays, 10 a.m. – 4 pm. Sale dates will be Saturday, September 14 and Sunday, September 15 afternoons.

**FOOD BANK DONATIONS** may also be left in the Narthex any Sunday; or Thursday, 10 am – 4 p.m. Needed:

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	

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

## Congregational Vitality and Growth: Inviting Facilities

Summer 2024

- Mulch around office entrance
- Remove planters by pergola – plant honeysuckles in ground
- Powerwash/paint fence & pergola, repair fence
- Replace steps – in progress (see Bud Behlman)
- Paint/varnish ramp railing by office entrance
- Remove moss – north side of church roof
- Paint rear dormer of parsonage

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

## **FOR THE CHURCH COMMUNITY**

**Our Church Directory is being updated** with a planned publication date of the first week of August. If you have any changes in your contact information, please contact Matti Paparazzo at [wumc@woodburyumc.net](mailto:wumc@woodburyumc.net).

**The Valley Parish Potluck Picnic** will be *Sat., Aug. 10<sup>th</sup>, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.* at Waterbury UMC, 250 Country Club Road, Waterbury. Interested in attending? Please let Catherine Mason, Valley Cooperative Parish representative, know at [Catherine.mason02@outlook.com](mailto:Catherine.mason02@outlook.com) or 203-707-6571.

**Hold the date:** Outdoor worship at Hollow Park, *Sunday, August 25, 10:30 a.m.* followed by picnic and fun!

**Liturgists** for Sunday worship are sought beginning September 8th. Please contact Pastor Brian (203.747.1781, text/call or [pastor.woodburyumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.woodburyumc@gmail.com) if interested.

**Are there hymns you'd especially like to sing?** Please let Chris Shay ([2cshay@gmail.com](mailto:2cshay@gmail.com); 203-592-8659) or Pastor Brian (contacts below) know.

**Pastor Brian** can be reached at [pastor.woodburyumc@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:wumc@woodburyumc.net). She'll get you on!

**Publication deadline** for the weekly bulletin and "Living through Grace" e-newsletter is **10 a.m. THURSDAY.** Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

## **VISION 2024 FOCUS**

Each week we emphasize one of the four focus areas: Evangelism, Missions, Communications and Congregational Vitality and Growth, the latter with three subsets: Spiritual Wellness, Financial Health, Inviting Facilities.

"Missions" will be emphasized all summer as we collect for "Brian's Bags for the Brian O'Connell Homeless Project. See the collection notice below.

"Inviting Facilities" continues to be emphasized with work project options.

"Communications" happen weekly but with special notices as needed.

Please consider how **YOU** can help move forward **VISION 2024!**

**BRIAN’S BAGS:** Please join Mission and Outreach this summer as we collect items to fill Brian’s Bags for the Brian O’Connell Homeless Project, started by Donna Finneran in memory of her twin brother, Brian. **The “ask” through today is foil packets of tuna.** We still welcome last week’s ask of “snack bars.” The remainder of the weeks will request:

July 28 – Aug. 4: foil packets of crackers August 4-11: 3x5 notebook and pen August 11-18: gallon size Ziploc bags

BOHP provides homeless people in Connecticut and New York with life’s basic necessities to ease day-to-day stresses of homeless people because each one is someone’s loved on. WUMC will collect one item each week. In September we will join with the Valley Cooperative Parish to assemble our bags together that will be distributed in the fall. Please see Meg Temple with any questions.

### **Parental leave efforts gaining momentum**

Two weeks after giving birth, the Rev. Roslyn Lee drove 90 minutes each way to preach at the church she was serving.

“(The) staff-parish relations committee said it’s a part-time position, so (I) wouldn’t be getting maternity leave,” Lee remembered. Her husband, a hospital chaplain who co-pastored the same church, had no difficulty getting paternity leave from the hospital.

“My husband and I were alternating (preaching) every other week,” she said. “He had preached the first week, and it would have made sense if he just covered the rest of the month.”

But leaders of the small, elderly congregation were insistent that she needed to be there when it was her turn, so she did it.

“I actually ended up in the hospital after that,” said Lee, who today is the pastor of Commack United Methodist Church in Commack, New York. She then opted to use her annual two weeks of vacation for her recovery, plus the couple paid a seminary student out of their own pocket to cover an additional week.

[The Rev. Diane Kenaston](#), a United Methodist elder and consultant who trains pastors to become more effective, is helping lead an effort to improve parental leave policies in the denomination with assistance from the [United Methodist Commission on the Status and Role of Women](#). Lobbying has been happening at annual conference meetings this year and will continue into 2025.

Read full story through the link in the “*Living Through Grace*” email.

## **Bishops in US receive assignments**

The denomination's five U.S. jurisdictional conferences are meeting this week around the country to make decisions that will help shape the future of the denomination.

While jurisdictions typically elect bishops every four years following General Conference, only [the Western Jurisdiction is holding episcopal elections](#) this year due to a substantially reduced denominational budget. In May, the denomination's international legislative assembly [voted to cut the number of active U.S. bishops from 39 to 32](#).

Jurisdictional conferences determine the boundaries of episcopal areas that bishops serve and the boundaries of the conferences within those episcopal areas. Each jurisdictional conference also votes on where its allotted bishops are assigned. Most jurisdictions have realigned their episcopal area boundaries to allow for the smaller number of bishops, and some are planning to share bishops across jurisdictional lines.

All active bishops are eligible for reassignment at jurisdictional conferences; episcopal assignments are effective Sept. 1.

Here are the assignments announced so far, by conference.

### **North Central Jurisdiction**

Dakotas-Minnesota: Bishop Lanette Plambeck

Illinois Great Rivers: Bishop David A. Bard and Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai

Indiana: Bishop Tracy S. Malone

Iowa Area: Bishop Kennetha J. Bigham-Tsai

Michigan Area: Bishop David A. Bard

Northern Illinois-Wisconsin: Bishop Dan Schwerin

Ohio Area: Bishop Hee-Soo Jung

Read full story through the link in the "*Living Through Grace*" email.