

# Woodbury United Methodist Church



February 16, 2025

Epiphany IV

10:30 AM Worship





**WE GO FORTH IN JOY**

*"Swing Low Sweet Chariot"*

UMH #703

\*HYMN

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

*"Give Me Oil in My Lamp"*

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

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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, Minister of Music      Matti Paparazzo, Admin. Assistant*

**NOTES ON TODAY'S WORSHIP**

*February is Black History Month. Black history is American history, including its hymnody. We will sing hymns from that tradition this month.*

*The Rev. Paul Hibbard is a retired United Methodist pastor with credentials located at Woodbury United Methodist Church. He entered ordained ministry from this congregation and he and his wife Diane, a longtime member of this church, were married here. Rev. Paul is leading the May, 2025 Mission to Ecuador. We welcome him to worship leadership today.*

*Pastor Brian Bodt is preaching today at Greenfield Hill Congregational Church, Fairfield, where he serves 10-15 hours a week in pastoral care. He returns to the office tomorrow.*

**TODAY AT WOODBURY UMC**

**WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH! VISITORS, PLEASE COMPLETE A VISITOR'S CARD AND PLACE IT IN THE OFFERING.** Our prayer is that you experience Christ's welcome and ours in this church. Please introduce yourself to Rev. Hibbard.

**FELLOWSHIP TIME** follows worship downstairs. Invite someone you don't know to join you!

**VISION 2025 EMPHASIS TODAY** is "Mission." Each week we focus on one of five areas: Evangelism, Missions, Communications, Affirmation and Inclusion and Congregational Vitality and Growth, the latter including Spiritual Wellness, Financial Health, Inviting Facilities.

**ECUADOR “STOCK”** may be purchased to support the May, 2025 Mission to Ecuador from any member of the organizing team. Rev. Hibbard will point you to them!

**WE THANK TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS**

Liturgist: Jeff Hunt

A.V. Tech: Meg Temple and Mark Riefenhauser

Ushers and Greeters: Mark Davis and Felice Godfrey

Fellowship Time Hosts: Gillian Griswold

**LENTEN DEVOTIONS DEADLINE IS TODAY**

Please submit your devotion to [pastor.woodburyumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.woodburyumc@gmail.com)

I will complete the booklet this evening. *Pastor Brian Bodt*

**PLANNING EVENT GRID**

Check out our 2025 ministry plans on the grid displayed in the Assembly Room! Have ideas for ministry you don’t see there?

Contact our Lay Leaders, Barb and Jeff Hunt at [babs2597@gmail.com](mailto:babs2597@gmail.com) or [jeff27hunt@comcast.net](mailto:jeff27hunt@comcast.net).

**OFFERING ENVELOPES**

Thank you for your faithful giving. If you are giving cash, please consider using an offering envelope (found in the pews) so an end-of-year giving record can be provided. If you would like a box of these envelopes, contact Matti in the church office (203.263.4775 or [wumc@woodburyumc.net](mailto:wumc@woodburyumc.net).)

*Mark Davis, Finance Chair*

**LIVE STREAM BROADCAST OPERATORS SOUGHT**

We seek 1-2 additional volunteers to support our live streaming ministry, allowing us to go from a 3-week to a 4-week rotation requiring each volunteer to run the A/V system about once per month. Please contact Mark Davis at [MWD2010A@yahoo.com](mailto:MWD2010A@yahoo.com) or 860.882.4427 if interested. He would be pleased to have interested persons watch the process on March 2nd and/or participate in a tutorial he will conduct following that Sunday’s worship service.

**THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS  
TO THE WOODBURY FOOD BANK**

Bring these any Sunday morning or any Thursday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**Items most needed for the next two weeks are:**

Pasta Sauce                      Jello                      Pudding                      Bottled Juice

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

## LENTEN STUDY

Our Lenten study will use the Rev. Adam Hamilton's book and study Forgiveness, with five sessions running Mondays, March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7. I will offer two sessions, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., each Monday. **Deadline to sign up will be Sunday, March 2** (so as to have needed books). Please sign up at [www.woodburyumc.net](http://www.woodburyumc.net) and click on the registration button; or contact me directly at 203.747.1781 (text or call) or [pastor.woodburyumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.woodburyumc@gmail.com). - *Pastor Brian*

## CHRISTMAS JAR BOOK RETURNS

Eight copies of the book Christmas Jars are out on loan: please return them to Carol Galloway when finished so that others might read this short story and decide if they also want to have a Christmas Jar.

## "IRON SHARPENS IRON" Men's Ministry Conference

Saturday, March 22 in Hartford. See Bud Behlman for details, or at <https://ironsharpensiron.net/aboutironsharpensiron/history.html>, the "Iron Sharpens Iron" website.

## CSCW EXECUTIVE SEARCH

The Community Services Council of Woodbury seeks a new Executive Director. To learn more, please contact Search Committee Chair Meg Temple at 203-910-3711 or [megtemple1@gmail.com](mailto:megtemple1@gmail.com).

## FOR THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

**ARE YOU ON OUR** "*Living through Grace*" weekly email? If not, please contact Matti Paparazzo at [wumc@woodburyumc.net](mailto:wumc@woodburyumc.net).

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

**REACH PASTOR BRIAN** for pastoral care or visitation at 203.747.1781 or [pastor.woodburyumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.woodburyumc@gmail.com).

## SAVE THESE DATES

**ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP**, March 5, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., Sanctuary

**ECUADOR PASTA DINNER**, Mar. 15, 4:30 - 7 pm, Fellowship Hall

**WORSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**, March 30, 10:30 a.m. A brief 30 minute worship will be followed by opportunities to serve our neighbors in Woodbury. More details will follow.

**“LENT ON THE ROAD”**: each Tuesday, March 11 – April 8, 6 p.m. light supper, 7 p.m. worship. Schedule on the rear cover. Woodbury UMC hosts (with North Congregational) at WUMC on April 8.

**THIS WEEK**

**TODAY, FEBRUARY 16**

**WORSHIP**, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

**FELLOWSHIP TIME**, 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

**CHOIR REHEARSALS**: 6 p.m., Bell Choir, 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

**OFFICE HOURS**, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Church

**CHURCH COUNCIL**, 7:00 p.m., Assembly Room

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

**TRANSITION ACADEMY**, 9:15 – 10:45 a.m., Church Grounds

**WUMC FOOD BANK SERVICE**, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m., Food Bank

**NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 10:30 a.m.**

Pastor Brian will preach a message on the beauty and complexity of “family” entitled “Family Values” based on Genesis 45:3-11 and 15, and Luke 6:27-38. Mark Riefenhauser will be our liturgist.

**ECUADOR MISSION - STOCK SALE**

Take part in this exciting **IPO** (*Initial Parish Offering*) that promises great **ROI** (*Reaching Others Internationally*).

The Stock Sale is one of several ways that you, your family, and your friends can



**“Share”** in the **2025 Mission Trip to Ecuador**.

Stockholders will receive a certificate that entitles them to:

- The gratitude of the Mission Team
- An update from Ecuador
- Stockholder’s dinner following Mission Team’s return from Ecuador

Stock certificates are \$10 per share and will be sold after church from February 9<sup>th</sup> until April 6<sup>th</sup>; and will also be available from Mission Team members at any time.

**100% of your donations will go directly to the 2025 Ecuador Mission Trip.**

Thank you for prayerfully considering your donation.

## **PASTA DINNER TO BENEFIT ECUADOR MISSION TEAM NEEDS YOUR HELP**

The Woodbury United Methodist Church will be hosting a Pasta Dinner on Saturday, March 15, 2025 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. to benefit our Ecuador Mission Team. We need your help in several ways:

First, invite your friends to a delicious meal for a worthy cause.

Second, we need bakers for this dinner. If you can make a dessert for the dessert table please contact Joann King by phone or email at (203) 885-2643 or [jojenu78@earthlink.net](mailto:jojenu78@earthlink.net).

Third, we are in need of individuals and families to serve food and bus tables. We are scheduling two shifts from 4:30 to 5:45 p.m. and 5:45 to 7:00 p.m. Per shift we need:

- 5 adults to serve food
- 2 dishwashers
- 2 youth to bus tables
- 4 clean-up crew from 7:00 -7:45 p.m.

If you would like to help support the WUMC Ecuador Mission during this fun event, please call, text or email me with the shift you would like at [megtemple1@gmail.com](mailto:megtemple1@gmail.com) or (203) 910-3711.

### **USAID freeze strikes Africa University**

United Methodist aid efforts in Africa are suffering, and thousands of employees aren't getting their paychecks, after the Trump administration froze funding to the federal agency that provides aid and development help around the world.

At [Africa University](#), a pan-African United Methodist university in Zimbabwe, programs researching malaria and tuberculosis were halted and staff members on those efforts were no longer getting their paychecks. In Zimbabwe alone, 25,000 people were affected by the freeze, said James H. Salley, president and chief executive officer of Africa University.

**Read full story in 2/13 "Living Through Grace"**