

# Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, August 31, 2025

Labor Day Sunday

Pentecost 12

10:30 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)

## August 31, 2025

\*Please stand as you are able.

### WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sam Temple, Liturgist  
From Psalms 127 and 128

L: Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

P: *God promises that we shall eat the fruit of the labor of our hands  
and that it will go well with us.*

**ALL: LET US THEN WORSHIP GOD, WHO GIVES US  
WORSHIPFUL WORK.**

\*HYMN                      *"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"*                      UMH #430

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*seated, in unison*) Thomas More, England, 16<sup>th</sup> cent.  
*The things, good Lord, that we pray for, give us the grace to  
labor for. Amen.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)                      based on Genesis 3:17-19  
*Lord, since Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden, we  
have thought of "work" as "punishment." We confess that our  
attitude toward work sometimes reflects disdain, rather than the  
privilege to learn and earn. We confess that we who have always  
had work do not always consider the despair of those who do not.  
Forgive that negativity, and grant that all our labor be worthy of  
you, whose Son Jesus came among us as one who serves. Amen.*

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

### THREE REFLECTIONS ON LABOR

*"How is our profession, our labor, an extension  
and expression of our Christian discipleship?"*

HYMN (*seated*)                      *"Forth in Thy Name, O Lord"*                      UMH #428, vs. 1

SCRIPTURE                      Psalm 127:1

REFLECTION		Mollie Bodwell
HYMN ( <i>seated</i> )	<i>"Forth in Thy Name, O Lord"</i>	UMH #428, vs. 2
SCRIPTURE		Matthew 11:28-30
REFLECTION		Connor Langdon
HYMN ( <i>seated</i> )	<i>"Forth in Thy Name, O Lord"</i>	UMH #428, vs. 3
SCRIPTURE		Hebrews 6:10
REFLECTION		Keri Lavish
HYMN ( <i>seated</i> )	<i>"Forth in Thy Name, O Lord"</i>	UMH #428, vs. 4

### **WE RESPOND IN FAITH**

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS	THE PASTORAL PRAYER
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THE LORD'S PRAYER	UMH #895
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**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
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*"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**

*HYMN	<i>"God, That Madest Earth and Heaven"</i>	UMH #688
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\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

+ + +

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

## **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*

## **TODAY AT WOODBURY UMC**

**WELCOME TO WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH!**  
**IF YOU ARE A VISITOR PLEASE COMPLETE A VISITOR'S CARD AND PLACE IT IN THE OFFERING.** Our desire is that you experience the warmth of Christ's welcome and ours in this church. **FELLOWSHIP TIME** follows worship downstairs. Invite someone you don't know to join you!

**VISION 2025 EMPHASES TODAY** are "Youth and Young Adults." Emphases are Evangelism, Missions, Affirmation and Inclusion, Communications, Youth and Young Adults and Congregational Vitality and Growth (Spiritual Wellness, Financial Health, Inviting Facilities).

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

Liturgist: Sam Temple      A.V. Tech: Mark Riefenhauser  
Fellowship Time Host: Carol Quinby  
Ushers and Greeters: Meg Temple and Paul Hibbard  
Worship Host: Mollie Bodwell

**PASTOR BRIAN BODT** and his wife, Carol Galloway, are in Montreal caring for her parents as they do a weekend every other month. They will return tomorrow evening.

**SEPTEMBER FOOD BANK SIGN UP SHEET** is now available outside the sanctuary doors. Please sign up! WUMC member and friends work at the Food Bank two months a year. **REMAINING OPEN DATES TO BE FILLED ARE** Friday, September 5 (two volunteers), Friday, September 19 (one volunteer) and Friday, September 26 (two volunteers) from 11 am – 2 pm at the Food Bank located behind Labonne's grocery store. You may also contact Meg Temple ([megtemple1@gmail.com](mailto:megtemple1@gmail.com); 203.910.3711) to sign up.  
**CURRENT FOOD BANK NEEDS are cookie mixes, canned beets, mushrooms and olives.**

**THE BOOK CHRISTMAS JAR** is making the rounds. If finished with your copy, please return it to Carol Galloway. If you'd like a copy, see her to obtain this engaging tale of kindness to others.

**AV BROADCASTERS SOUGHT:** Might you have the interest to be trained to broadcast and record our weekly worship? Check in with Mark Riefenhauser, AV Coordinator, at 203.558.1685 or [fs5516@yahoo.com](mailto:fs5516@yahoo.com). We need one more person to complete the team!

### **OUR PRAYER INTENTIONS**

For the victims of the Minneapolis Catholic School shooting

For the Rev. Paul Hibbard, leaving tomorrow for a mission conference in Chicago, for safe travels and a productive time.

For the Rev. John Thomason, scheduled for shoulder surgery on Wednesday.

For Christine Smith on the critical illness of her friend, Christine, and her friends Ann and Terry.

For conflicts in the Middle East and our troops stationed there; and for the conflicts in the Ukraine and the Sudan.

Bishop Bickerton; our new District Superintendent, the Rev. Heather Sinclair; and the churches and clergy of the NY Conference.

For Missionaries, especially Sarah Flores (Ecuador) and Rev. Dexter Ceballos (Mongolia).

For those facing life's difficulties and medical challenges, especially Carol Hennessey, Nancy Ossewaarde, Eni Mucco (friend of Jane Hutter) and Jean Lilly (Meg Temple's mother).

### **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

#### **SUNDAY, AUGUST 31**

**CONFIRMATION**, 9 a.m., Assembly Room

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

#### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3**

**BELL CHOIR**, 6 p.m., Sanctuary

**CHANCEL CHOIR**, 7:15 p.m., Sanctuary

#### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4**

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

**COOPERATIVE PARISH CLERGY**, 11 a.m., Naugatuck UMC

**EVANGELISM COMMITTEE**, 7:15 p.m., Assembly Room

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE**, 6 p.m., Pastor's Office

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**

(tentative) **TRANSITION ACADEMY**, 9:15-10:45 am, Church

**NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Setting A). The sermon "Family Values" reflects on Luke 14:25-33. We will receive Woodbury Food Bank donations and gifts to the pastor's discretionary fund. Our liturgist and communion assistant will be Esther Lin. After worship, free blood pressure screenings will be conducted in the Assembly Room by Andrew Styblo, EMT.

**CONFIRMATION TIME APART will follow worship from Noon - 4 p.m. in the Wesley Room (downstairs next to Fellowship Hall).**

We will have a light lunch, make our Confirmation stoles, and conclude our studies in preparation for Confirmation on October 26.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

**CHOIR REHEARSALS RESUME Wednesday, September 3:**

Bell Choir, 6 p.m. and Chancel Choir, 7:15 p.m., in the sanctuary.

Rehearsals are most Wednesdays. Interested? Please contact Minister of Music Chris Shay at 203.592.8659 or [2cshay@gmail.com](mailto:2cshay@gmail.com).

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11:** Christian Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Assembly Room

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13:** Visit to Christ the Savior Russian Orthodox Church, 1070 Roxbury Road, Southbury, 4 - 5:45 p.m. This initiative from our Christian Education Committee helps us learn about Christians of other traditions. **If you plan to attend**, please let Bob Asman know at [asmanct@hotmail.com](mailto:asmanct@hotmail.com) or (860) 567-2557.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14: "FRIENDS AND FAMILY SUNDAY."**

We did it last year: let's have fun again! You tell your friends and family about a good restaurant, right? Regular attendance shows you find spiritual sustenance here! Not regular? No problem! Come see what's on the menu! We're not looking to take people away from their church homes. We simply say "*We experience God's love at WUMC, think it's special, and want to share it with you.*"

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21:** Megan Houllihan-Aceto, Executive Director of the Community Services Council of Woodbury, will offer a Mission Moment on the ministry of CSCW (including its heralded Woodbury Food Bank) and make a post-worship presentation during Fellowship Time. We will have a special offering for CSCW.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 8:30 a.m.: “FAITH AND FICTION: An open minds, open hearts book club”** led by Meg Temple and Christine Shupenis begins in Fellowship Hall. We will meet the last Sunday of each month. Our first book will be Ordinary Grace by William Kent Kruger.

**10:30 a.m.:** We will be privileged to have the new Superintendent of the Connecticut District, the Rev. Heather Sinclair, as our preacher. With 73 churches in the District, we are fortunate to have her on a Sunday less than three months before she began her July 1<sup>st</sup> appointment. After worship, Rev. Sinclair will meet with our Staff-Parish Relations Committee as they consult on needs and desires for our next pastor beginning July 1, 2026. **If you have thoughts on this, please share them by September 14<sup>th</sup> with Chairperson Christine Shupenis ([cshupenis@gmail.com](mailto:cshupenis@gmail.com)) or any member of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee:** Bud Behlman, Mark Davis, RaeAnn Hockenberry, Jeff Hunt, Catherine Mason, Elizabeth Styblo, Sherry Swanhall or Patti Thomas.

### **FOR THE CHURCH COMMUNITY**

**A WARM WELCOME** to **Gale Barna**, leading our music. Gale taught music in the Waterbury and Newtown Public Schools, and at the University of Bridgeport. Gale was also the Choral Director at the St Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport and Organist/Choir Director at Holy Cross Church in Fairfield.

**Pastor Brian** can be reached at [pastor.woodburyumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.woodburyumc@gmail.com) or 203.747.1781 for 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.

**THREE SIMPLE RULES** is a primer to the basics of Methodism: Do no harm; do good; and stay in love with God. This brief, three part series based on the simple book by Bishop Reuben Job will be taught by Pastor Brian on **Mondays, September 29, October 6 and 13** during the day (10 a.m. or Noon) and/or evening (7 p.m.) as warranted. Please register below or sign up on the church website:

**THREE SIMPLE RULES**

**THREE SESSIONS: MONDAYS, SEPT. 29, OCT. 6 AND 13**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: SUNDAY, SEPT. 21**

**Give this completed form to Pastor Brian, leave it in his office mailbox, or leave it on the office work station.**

**You may also register with the QR code at [www.woodburyumc.net](http://www.woodburyumc.net)**

**Yes! Count me in! Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
*(please print legibly)*

**Preferred contact:**

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I would prefer to attend (if available for more than one time, please number them 1, 2, 3 in your order of preference.) A minimum of 5 attendees will be needed to offer a session.**

\_\_\_\_\_ 10 - 11 a.m.      \_\_\_\_\_ Noon - 1 p.m.      \_\_\_\_\_ 7 - 8 p.m.