

# Woodbury United Methodist Church



*"Friends and Family Sunday"*

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Pentecost 14

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)

## September 14, 2025

\*Please stand as you are able.

### WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*"Prelude in D Minor"*

JS Bach

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Exodus 15:2, 18 (ed.)

Joann King, Liturgist

L: The Lord is my strength and my might, and has become my  
salvation;

**P: *this is my God to whom belongs glory and praise!***

**ALL: THE LORD WILL REIGN FOREVER AND EVER. LET US  
WORSHIP GOD!**

\*HYMN

*"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

UMH #103

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*seated, in unison*)

Richard Allen,

African Methodist Episcopal Bishop, 19<sup>th</sup> cent.

*We believe, O Lord, that you have not abandoned us to the dim light of our own reason to conduct us to happiness, but that you have revealed in Holy Scriptures whatever is necessary for us to believe and practice. How noble and excellent are the precepts, how sublime and enlightening the truth, how persuasive and strong the motives, how powerful the assistance of your holy religion. Our delight shall be in your statutes, and we will not forget your Word. Amen.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

*We're sorry, Lord. Not the "oops" kind of sorry when we bump a neighbor in the checkout line. But deep-down sorry: the kind of regret that wakes us up at night because we know we messed up. Maybe not today. But some day—past, present or future—we're sorry, Lord. So help us to be sorry enough to quit, with your help, whatever we did wrong or failed to do right. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

## WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THE PSALTER	Psalm 14	UMH p.746
THE EPISTLE		I Timothy 1:12-17
*THE GOSPEL		Luke 15:1-10
*HYMN	<i>"Amazing Grace"</i>	UMH #378
THE SERMON	<i>"Who'd You Invite?"</i>	Pastor Brian Bodt

## WE RESPOND IN FAITH

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 AND OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY      *"The Lord is My Shepherd"*      Allen Pote

\*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

\*HYMN      *"To God Be the Glory"*      UMH #98

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE      *"Fugue in D Minor"*      JS Bach

+ + +

**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 "*Spiritual Wellness*" and "*Evangelism.*" 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: Joann King      A.V. Tech: Mark Davis  
Fellowship Time Host:  
Ushers and Greeters:

**OUR ACTIVE SUPPORT OF THE WOODBURY FOOD BANK** includes both Friday volunteers during September and the food items you donate, week in and week out. **CURRENT FOOD BANK NEEDS are cookie mixes, canned beets, mushrooms and olives.**  
*"I was hungry and you gave me food...."* Matthew 25:35

**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.

**ALTAR FLOWERS TODAY** are given by Christine Smith in memory of her sister on her 83<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

## **OUR PRAYER INTENTIONS**

The Reverends David and Sandy Mantz, traveling to the Congo Sept. 10-17 for the installation of Bishop Nelson Ngoy of the Tanganyika Episcopal Area of the Mid-Africa Central Conference in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

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, SEPTEMBER 14**

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

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

### **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

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

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

### **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

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

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

### **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19**

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

## **NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**

The sermon "*Dead Enough*" based on Luke 16:1-13. Our liturgist will be David Hunt. Our "*Testimony*" speaker will be Liam McGrath. Our Mission Moment will be presented by Megan Houlihan-Aceto, the new Executive Director of *Community Services Council of Woodbury*. She will also make comments and receive questions during Fellowship Time. We will have a special offering for CSCW.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**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.

**PLEASE ALSO HOLD THE DATE** for the recognition of appointment for Rev. Sinclair, ***Sunday, October 12, 4 p.m.*** at Nichols United Methodist Church, 35 Shelton Road, Trumbull, CT.

### **FOR THE CHURCH COMMUNITY**

**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.



United  
Women  
in Faith

# Save The Date UWF Annual Meeting

OCTOBER 4, 2025

CHRIST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
1890 FOREST AVE  
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10303





# **FOOD DRIVE**

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**TO BENEFIT THE WOODBURY FOOD BANK**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup> 8AM -8PM**

**STOP & SHOP SOUTHBURY**



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP  
OR REACH OUT TO MEGAN  
at 203-263-3869**



The CSCW urgently needs volunteers to work at their food drive sponsored by Stop & Shop in Southbury on Saturday, September 13 from 8 AM to 8 PM. Specifically, they need help between 2 PM and 6 PM. I am asking that the Woodbury United Methodist Church help supply volunteers during this critical time. Do you have time between 2-4 or 4-6 PM? Let's make this a group effort and help our neighbors together! You may sign up through the QR code on the flyer or by contacting Meg Temple at 203-910-3711.



HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR  
COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNCIL OF WOODBURY  
WOODBURY FOOD BANK

## SUBMIT YOUR RECEIPTS

IF YOU SHOP AT ANY  
LABONNE'S MARKETS,  
PLEASE CONSIDER  
SUBMITTING YOUR  
RECEIPTS MONTHLY TO  
ASSIST US IN RAISING  
FUNDS FOR OUR  
CRITICAL NEEDS.



*LaBonne's*  
MARKETS

REGISTER RECEIPTS



[community.services.council@gmail.com](mailto:community.services.council@gmail.com)

### HOW TO SUBMIT:

#### DROP OFF:

Woodbury Food Bank\*

- Donation Box

Food Donation Boxes\*

- Woodbury Post Office
- Woodbury Library

\*Please place in a plastic  
baggie or sealed envelope

#### MAIL:

CSCW  
PO Box 585  
Woodbury, CT 06798

WUMC Christian Education's Crossroads Forum Presents:

# REIMAGINING "THE GOOD LIFE" DISABILITY. FAITH. FAMILY. CULTURE.

Featuring noted author, podcaster, and mother Amy Julia Becker.

**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**4 CHURCH ST, WOODBURY, CT**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH**

**6:30 - 8:00 PM**

**FREE EVENT**

Pre-registration is not required but appreciated:



*Becker's books will be available for purchase  
and donations to the Crossroads Speaker  
Series will be accepted.*



## **Men – Are You Ready For Some Football?**

 The Valley Cooperative Parish Presents:

### **“A Few Good Men” Ministry Breakfast**

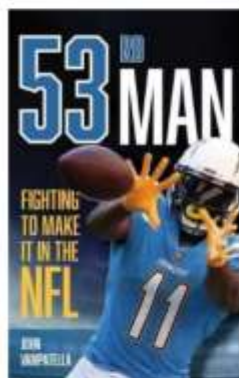
Saturday October 25<sup>th</sup> @ 8:30 -10:30 AM  
Naugatuck UMC - 208 Meadow Street (Naugatuck)

Featuring **John Vampatella** –  
Nationally Recognized Author, Speaker, and ...



*UConn Huskies Football Team Chaplain*

John will share his faith and insights from his newest book, **53rd Man**. He will discuss the larger issue of knowing your worth as an athlete and as a person. Everyone has value and brings value to the table. It promises to be an inspiring and encouraging message, especially for those who are often overlooked.



- 8:30 Doors Open for Coffee & Donuts
- 9:00 Full Breakfast (eggs, sausage, and more...)
- 9:30 Speaker & Program

*This is a free event with a suggested donation of \$20 the day of breakfast.*

**Signup with your Pastor, Men's Ministry leader, or at:**



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C054BABAC2AA3FAC34-58286727-mens>

**For more information contact:**

Bud Behlman

[AFGM.Ministry@gmail.com](mailto:AFGM.Ministry@gmail.com)

203-206-9276