

Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, September 21, 2025

Pentecost 15

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

September 21, 2025

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Sonata in F K.332"

W.A. Mozart

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 105:1-2 (ed.)

David Hunt, Liturgist

L: Give thanks to the Lord! Call on God's name and make known
God's deeds to all!

**P: Sing to God! Sing praises to the Lord and tell of all God's
wonderful works!**

ALL: LET US WORSHIP GOD!

*HYMN

"Jesus Calls Us"

UMH #398

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*seated, in unison*) Susanna Wesley, Eng., 18th cent.

*You, O Lord, have called us to watch and pray. Therefore,
whatever may be the sin against which we pray, make us careful to
watch against it, and so have reason to expect that our prayers will
be answered. In order to perform this duty aright, grant us grace to
preserve a sober, equal temper, and sincerity to pray for your
assistance. Amen.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

*Holy and merciful God, we have not always taken on the
yoke of obedience nor been willing to seek and do your will. We
have neither loved you nor our neighbors fully. You call to us in the
need of our neighbors but we have passed by unheeding. In pride and
unwillingness to repent we have turned away from the cross of
Christ. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.*

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE

"TESTIMONY"

Liam McGrath

(*One in a series of monthly lay witnesses.*)

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1

*THE GOSPEL

Luke 16:1-13

*HYMN

"I Surrender All"

UMH #354

THE SERMON

"Dead Enough"

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.

MISSION MOMENT

Community Services Council of Woodbury
Megan Houlihan-Aceto, Executive Director

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING AND OFFERING OUR GIFTS,
including an offering for Community Services Council of Woodbury

OFFERTORY

"Seek Ye First"

arr. Douglas Wagner

*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

"For the Healing of the Nations"

UMH #428

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Fugue in G Major"

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
Christopher Shay, Director of Music

Jeff and Barbara Hunt, Lay Leaders
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!

A WARM WELCOME TO MEGAN HOULIHAN-ACETO,
Executive Director of the Community Services Council of Woodbury.
Ms. Houlihan-Aceto will share more of CSCW's programs and services during Fellowship Time today.

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

VISION 2025 EMPHASIS TODAY is "*Missions.*" 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: David Hunt

A.V. Tech: Christine Shupenis and Mark Davis

Fellowship Time Host: Sandy Purdy

Ushers and Greeters: Beth Clark and Patti Thomas

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.

OUR PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the family of Charlie Kirk, columnist and broadcaster, assassinated at a public address in Utah; and for our nation, increasingly prone to violence.

For the Rev. John Thomason, recovering from surgery.

For Carolyn Shay, being treated for a medical condition.

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 21

WORSHIP, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

FELLOWSHIP TIME and CONVERSATION with

Ms. Houlihan-Aceto, 11:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

USHER / GREETER REFRESHER, 7 p.m., Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

BELL CHOIR, 6 p.m., Sanctuary

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

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

OPEN DOORS INITIATIVE MEETING, 6-6:45 p.m., Assembly

COOPERATIVE PARISH COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Naugatuck UMC

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

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

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

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 1st 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.

IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN FOR COLLEGE CONNECTION, our annual outreach to our young adults who are pursuing post-secondary education. First we will be collecting the name and addresses of each of our post high school students. Please submit provide the names and addresses to Patti Thomas at Patti.Thomas12@yahoo.com or Carol Galloway at Carol9996@hotmail.com

Please submit this information even if you shared this information last year. The deadline is September 28, 2025.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, Christian Education Meeting, 7 p.m., Assembly Room

RECOGNITION OF APPOINTMENT for District Superintendent Rev. Heather Sinclair, ***Sunday, October 12, 4 p.m.*** at Nichols United Methodist Church, 35 Shelton Road, Trumbull, CT.

FALL CLEAN UP, *Saturday, October 18*. Details coming soon.

REIMAGINING "THE GOOD LIFE:" DISABILITY. FAITH. FAMILY. CULTURE. ***Sunday, October 19, 6:30 – 8 p.m.*** here at Woodbury UMC. See the flier in this issue.

"A FEW GOOD MEN" MINISTRY BREAKFAST, *Saturday, October 25th, 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.* at Naugatuck UMC, 208 Meadow Street. See the flier in this issue for details and registration.

FOR THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Pastor Brian can be reached at 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 umc@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.

Dear Usher / Greeters,

Thank you for your service as our "advance team" in welcoming visitors and coordinating a smooth worship experience for all.

We invite you to an in-person refresher on Monday, September 22, 7:15 - 8 p.m. in the sanctuary. The items we wish to refresh are:

1. Greeting visitors and obtaining visitor's cards
2. Taking and recording attendance
3. Choreography on collecting the offering
4. Communion choreography
5. Tidying up after worship

Please contact Matti in the office for an unedited version of our 2016 guidelines. Some items are clearly dated based on our current practice, but this can be a helpful tool as we update it together.

If there are other items you'd like to review, please let either of us know.

Again, thank you for your important service in the worship and evangelism life of our church.

Yours in Christ,

Joann King
Coordinator

Rev. Dr. Brian Bodt
Pastor

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

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.