

Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, November 16, 2025

Pentecost 23

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

November 16, 2025

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"Canon"

Pachelbel

Gale Barna, Guest Organist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Olivia Guinipero, Liturgist

Based on Micah 6:8

L: Let us test and examine our ways, and return to the Lord.

P: *With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before
God on high?*

L: God has showed you, mortal, what is good and what is required:

P: *To do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with God.*

*HYMN

"Blest Be the Tie that Binds"

UMH #557

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

*O God, you show us what is good: to do justice, love mercy,
and walk humbly with You. Grant that we be so enamored with life
that lightens the cares of others, that we help bring in Your Kingdom
for which we pray. We ask this in the name of your Son, our Lord
and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

*O God, we want to be generous in heart and life. Yet self-
interest sometimes commands our attention, and we become miserly
with the things that matter most: faith, hope and love. Grant that
our trust in you becomes so great that we are inspired to lives of
generosity through an attitude of gratitude for all you have given us,
most especially forgiveness through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

SILENT CONFESSION AND WORDS OF PARDON

FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

*Zacchaeus was a wee little man, a wee little man was he
He climbed up in a sycamore tree for the Lord he wanted to see.
And when the Savior passed that way he looked up in the tree;
And he said: "Zacchaeus, you come down!
For I'm going to your house today, for I'm going to your house today.*

WE PRAY FOR GOD'S WORLD AND PEOPLE

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.

OFFERING OURSELVES

*THROUGH SONG

"God Is Here"

UMH #660

THROUGH WITNESS

"God Is Here"

Bob Asman

"God Is Here" is our Stewardship Campaign for 2026.

Commitment Sunday is November 23rd.

THROUGH OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

THROUGH MUSIC

"Give Thanks"

H. Smith/J. Wilson

The Chancel Choir

*THROUGH 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 LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THE PSALTER

Psalms 119:137-144

*THE GOSPEL

Luke 19:1-10

*HYMN

"He Touched Me"

UMH #367

THE SERMON

"Sinner In a Tree"

Pastor Brian Bodt

This first-person presentation of Zacchaeus was written by the Rev. Dr. Christopher Holmes.

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

*HYMN

"Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated"

UMH #399

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

"Honor and Glory"

C. Rink

+ + +

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.

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

WE WELCOME GUEST ORGANIST Gale Barna. Gale studied at the Manhattan School of Music and taught music in Newtown and Waterbury public schools and at the University of Bridgeport Preparatory Division. Gale has served in various parishes including St. Augustine Cathedral in Bridgeport, and Holy Cross in Fairfield. Chris and Gale worked together at St. Teresa's Church.

MINISTER OF MUSIC CHRIS SHAY and his wife Carolyn are at Yale-New Haven Hospital as part of Carolyn's on-going treatment.

WE THANK TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Liturgist: Olivia Guinipero A.V. Tech: Mark Riefenhauser
Ushers and Greeters: Jay Hockenberry and Carol Quinby
Fellowship Time Host: Judy Wilhelms and Cathy Riefenhauser

COLLEGE CONNECTION NOTECARDS ARE DUE TODAY to Carol Galloway or Patti Thomas. Questions? Please see or contact them: Patti (203.228.1602) or Carol (203.687.6225).

MID-WEEK PRAYER RETURNS TUESDAY

"Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors" mid-week prayer will be held Tuesday, 7 - 7:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Please join us for Hopeful Readings and Reflections: Responses in Uncertain Times. This 45-minute time apart includes a welcome and quiet centering, reading and conversation, prayer and meditation, and sending forth.

"GOD IS HERE" STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Our final stewardship letter, from Elizabeth Styblo, was mailed last Tuesday. If you did not receive it, extra copies are on the document table in the Foyer. It included a pledge card. They may be submitted to the Financial Secretary, Rynn Naylor, in person or in her in-office mailbox; or presented next Sunday, Commitment Sunday, Nov. 23.

POINSETTIA ORDERS AND PAYMENT PROTOCOLS

Thank you for beautifying our altar at Christmas by purchasing poinsettias. **The firm deadline for orders is Sunday, December 7.** Please use the form in this bulletin. **Please give all payments through the morning offering**, either in a marked envelope or by check with the memo "poinsettia." You may also give a payment directly to Financial Secretary Rynn Naylor. Please do not leave donations, especially cash, in other locations.

WEBSITE MIGRATION

WUMC is preparing to migrate our website, woodburyumc.net to a different hosting platform by the end of the year. In preparation for that our website is being reorganized to make the migration more efficient. The website looks different, but is not yet "the new website." When the website does "migrate" it will still be reached through the web address woodburyumc.net.

During this migration process, please know that Breeze (the app we use for Giving & the Directory) can be accessed directly through our page on the Breeze website. This page can be found at <https://woodburyumc.breezechms.com/> → either click this link or type woodburyumc,breezechms.com directly into a web browser like Chrome or Safari.

Should you have questions regarding the migration, please contact Catherine Mason or Rod Carnes. If you need technical assistance, please contact Catherine Mason (outside of regular business hours please) at 203-707-6571 or catherine.mason02@outlook.com. Should you text her, please tell her who you are. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we work through this process.

OUR PRAYER INTENTIONS

For Carol Quinby undergoing vision testing.

For Nancy Ossewaarde, recovering at home.

For Carolyn Shay, being treated for a medical condition.

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) as well as prayers this week for Hong-Duk Kim and Helen De Leon Camarce.

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

WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

WORSHIP, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

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

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17

CHRISTMAS IS NOT YOUR BIRTHDAY, 7 p.m., Assembly Room

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18

OPEN CHURCH MID-WEEK PRAYER, 7 – 7:45 p.m., Sanctuary

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

BELL CHOIR, 6 p.m., Sanctuary

NO CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance

WOODBURY-SOUTHBURY CLERGY, 9:30 a.m., B'nai Israel

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

CHURCH COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Assembly Room

NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23

COMMITMENT / THANKSGIVING / CHRIST THE KING

The message "*Trailers*" will be based on Luke 21:5-19 with Isaiah 65:17-25 and 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13. We will receive your pledge commitments for our 2026 Woodbury United Methodist Church budget. We will honor Transgender Day of Remembrance (Nov. 20). Our liturgist will be Barb Hunt.

ON-GOING MINISTRIES

CURRENT WOODBURY FOOD BANK NEEDS are paper towel and toilet paper, crushed and whole tomatoes, seasoned rice, beef stew, canned chili, pancake mix. Please leave them in the Foyer box. "*I was hungry and you gave me food....*" Jesus, Matthew 25:35

COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICES

Tuesday, November 25: two Thanksgiving services, both at 7 p.m.
Interfaith Woodbury-Southbury service at North Congregational, 11 Main Street North, Woodbury, Rev. Tuesday Rupp, preaching, combined choir

Valley Cooperative Parish at Waterbury UMC, 250 Country Club Rd

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 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.

CHRISTMAS CAFE

WUMC will again be participating in the annual Woodbury Christmas Festival this year. We plan to offer lunch which will include soup, sandwich and dessert. **The date is December 6 from 11:30 to 2:00.** We will need help on that Saturday, as well as during the week before, to decorate Fellowship Hall and to prepare soups and sandwiches. We'll also need baked good donations for the dessert table. There will be sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall or you can contact Joann King at 203-885-2643 or jojenu78@earthlink.net.





Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR)

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. At Woodbury United Methodist Church, our Affirmation and Inclusion Ministry team has asked that we observe this in worship on Sunday, November 23rd. We will do so as part of the morning prayers

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998. The vigil commemorated all the transgender people lost to violence since Rita Hester's death, and began an important tradition that has become the annual Transgender Day of Remembrance.

"Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. I am no stranger to the need to fight for our rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people – sometimes in the most brutal ways possible – it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice." – Transgender Day of Remembrance founder [Gwendolyn Ann Smith](#)

If you have questions, please contact any member of the Affirmation and Inclusion Ministry Team: Bud Behlman, Pastor Brian Bodt, Karen Fimmano, Barb Hunt, Jeff Hunt, Liam McGrath, Toby McGrath, Carolyn Shay, Chris Shay, Meg Temple.

WUMC CHRISTMAS CARD FUNDRAISER TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNCIL OF WOODBURY

Do you look forward to receiving Christmas cards each December? Did your family pass them around or hang them up? What is the purpose of a Christmas card anyway? Of course, the purpose of a Christmas card is to convey goodwill and maintain connections with loved ones, friends and acquaintances during the Christmas season. It's a tangible and personal way to express warm wishes and to let people know you are thinking of them, even if you don't see or speak to them often throughout the year.

This Christmas season would you consider adding one more recipient to your Christmas card list? The Woodbury United Methodist Church will be supporting the valuable and timely work of the Community Services Council of Woodbury this Advent by collecting Christmas cards from you that include well wishes and any amount of donation you can afford. The CSCW works in our community to provide vital support to residents in need of emergency rental, energy and fuel assistance in addition to the food bank. It also advocates for residents and connects them to critical resources. As a community-based nonprofit, CSCW relies entirely on local support. Your generosity enables CSCW to continue responding quickly and compassionately to our neighbors' most urgent needs. Your donation ensures that no family is left in the cold, no one goes hungry, and no neighbor walks through hardship alone.

In upcoming weeks, the newsletter will feature timely information about food insecurity, energy and crisis assistance through the pillars of Advent: hope, peace, joy and love.

Collections will begin on Sunday, November 30 during the Hanging of the Greens where you may attach a ribbon to your card and place it as a reminder of your goodwill and generosity on the sanctuary Christmas tree. You may donate in one of three ways - checks made out to WUMC with CSCW in the memo line; cash in an envelope well-marked with CSCW indicated on the envelope, or by visiting the designated CSCW giving option on our website. Giving will continue through Christmas Eve.

By remembering CSCW with your card and your donation, you are offering someone in our community hope, peace, joy and love this Christmas season. God bless you. ~ **Meg Temple**, Missions Chair



Community Services Council of Woodbury

Santa's Workshop

Help us make this Christmas a special time of year for those in need in our community.

We're collecting gifts and essentials for children, adults, and seniors; every donation makes a difference!

Donations of Toys and Gifts for Children

Visit New Morning Market, Newtown Savings Bank & the Woodbury Public Library to select a tag off a "Giving Tree."

Small Adult Gift

Seeking small, thoughtful gifts for seniors in need; cozy slippers, warm throws, puzzles, hand cream, special coffees/teas/treats or anything to bring comfort and joy this holiday season.

Warm Accessories for Children

Hats, Gloves, Scarves (Toddler-18yrs)

**Unwrapped Gifts & New Sealed Wrapping Paper May Be
Dropped Off at the Woodbury Public Library By: December 1st**

Questions:

203-263-3869

community.services.council@gmail.com



HELP US FEED LOCAL FAMILIES



GIVE LOCAL. FEED LOCAL. WOODBURY HELPING WOODBURY.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- At the Woodbury Labonne's you can apply monetary funds to the food bank account
- Drop off most needed non-perishable food items
- Monetary donations, scan below:



**Donate
via Pay Pal**



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Every can, every dollar, and every act of kindness helps us continue our mission to ensure no one in Woodbury goes hungry

MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:

- Canned soup, chowders, stews & broth
- Rice, instant mashed potatoes & jarred pasta sauce
- Shelf-stable milk & juice
- Peanut butter & canned protein
- Pancake mix, cereal & oatmeal



CONNECT WITH US:

203-263-3869
community.services.council@gmail.com

DROP OFF LOCATION:

Woodbury Food Bank
(Behind Labonne's, under
Newtown Savings Bank)

2025 Poinsettia Order Form

Each Christmas season, our sanctuary is beautifully decorated with holiday trimmings and poinsettias. As the season approaches, we are now taking orders for the poinsettias, which may be in honor of, in celebration of, or in memory of one or more loved ones. A list of acknowledgments will be printed in the church bulletin on Sunday, December 21 and Christmas Eve.

Poinsettias are \$11.00 each. We encourage you to take your flower(s) home with you after the service on Christmas Eve.

You may order your flower(s) by filling out the form below, and placing it in the collection plate, or returning it to the church office accompanied by a check or cash for total amount (a folder marked Poinsettias Orders is available on the office mail station). All checks should be made out to Woodbury United Methodist Church. **All orders must be placed no later than SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7th.**

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

In honor/celebration/memory of: (Please circle one)

(If more space is required, please attach a separate piece of paper)

_____ Red poinsettia	_____ Quantity
_____ White poinsettia	_____ Quantity
_____ Pink poinsettia	_____ Quantity

Please be sure to list all the necessary information so follow-up calls do not have to be made. If you can't fill out the form, call Carolyn Shay at 203-518-3177 with order and mail check to church office at 4 Church St. Thank you!