

## NOTICES FOR NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2025

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

**Liturgists:** Meg Temple and Rebecca Hibbard

**A.V. Tech:** Christine Shupenis

**Ushers and Greeters:** Beth Clark and Mollie Bodwell

**Fellowship Time Host:** The Book Club

**Wreath Carriers:** Jay and Rae Ann Hockenberry

Joann King and Judy Wilhelms

Sandy Purdy and Carol Quinby

Pastor John Thomason and Kate Keeler

Michael Pinevich and Eileen Brennan

Paul, Diane and Rebecca Hibbard

Michael Boisseau and Christa Fine

Bob Asman and James Asman

**Cedar Branches:** Karen and TJ Fimano

**Holly and Berries:** Esther Lin and Nancy Chen

**Ivy:** Christine Smith and Sherry Swanhall

### **"GOD IS HERE" STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN**

If you were unable to be with us last week and wish to support our 2026 ministry through pledging, please place the card in the offering plate or give it to the Financial Secretary, Rynn Naylor, in person or in her in-office mailbox. Extra pledge cards are found on the document table in the Foyer. We will announce campaign results on December 11 and 14. Thank you for supporting Christ's ministry!

### **CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR HOPE**

We begin Advent with an exercise of repentance. We turn away the things in this world that we think can save us – whether that is money or food or friends or busy-ness. And we turn toward God so that we might be Christ's light, love and body in this world. We trust in the hope of a God more powerful than death who came in body and flesh to walk among us. In Christ, God shows us that we can trust in the power of God to shine through us so that we might shine the light of God's hope on the injustice and suffering all around us in this world.

FACT: 1 in 7 residents of Connecticut struggle with hunger. 1 in 6 are children. This represents a 40% increase since 2020 and continues to grow. Even in a state as wealthy as Connecticut, there is need for food assistance in every community. Sometimes the difference between a family that uses a food program and one that doesn't is

the sudden loss of a job, an illness or the unexpected rise in healthcare or utility expenses. (Source: CT FoodShare)

Locally, the Community Services Council of Woodbury (CSCW) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to assisting Woodbury residents facing financial challenges. Founded over three decades ago by local faith communities, CSCW has grown into a vital resource for our town, offering compassionate support to individuals and families in need.

CSCW operates several key programs to support our community:

- **Woodbury Food Bank:** Serving an average of 80 families weekly, the Food Bank provides essential groceries to households in need. Additionally, the food bank offers donated items not typically stocked, allowing guests to choose freely.
- **Energy Assistance:** During colder months, CSCW provides supplementary heating assistance to help families manage rising energy costs.
- **Crisis Assistance:** In times of sudden hardship – such as job loss, illness, or personal tragedy – CSCW offers short-term financial aid to help individuals regain stability.

This Christmas season won't you add one more recipient to your Christmas card list complete with a donation to the CSCW to help in their mission to fight hunger? Please see the details on how you can contribute elsewhere in this newsletter.

God of grace, as we learn of the many people experiencing hunger in our community, let our hearts be encouraged knowing that hunger is solvable. Let hope fill our spirits and please guide us in finding ways to help end hunger in our time.

### **POINSETTIA ORDERS AND PAYMENT PROTOCOLS**

Thank you for beautifying our altar at Christmas by purchasing poinsettias. **The firm deadline for orders is NEXT 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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.

## **"GRIEF, HEALING AND THE HOLIDAYS"**

On Sunday, December 14, following worship at 11:45 a.m., the Rev. Garrett Walkup will be with us to talk about the difficulties of the "holiday season," especially for those grieving the loss of a loved one. While Christmas and holiday traditions are meant to bring comfort and joy, they often stir up memories and emotions that can lead to sorrow and heartache. Grief is "sticky."

Join us for a compassionate conversation on navigating grief during the holidays. Rev. Walkup is well known to our church and is a RVNAhealth Spiritual Care and Bereavement Coordinator. He will share insights and strategies to help us manage our emotions, find meaningful ways to honor our loved ones, and care for ourselves during these challenging days. Let's come together to support one another and find hope in the season.

## **MENORAH LIGHTING AT CONGREGATION B'NAI ISRAEL**

A lovely interfaith opportunity will be held on Thursday, December 18, 5 p.m. at Congregation B'nai Israel at their annual community menorah lighting ceremony. The service is brief – 15 to 20 minutes since it is outside – and a lovely opportunity to interact with our Jewish neighbors. I attended last year and will again this year, and invite as many WUMC-ers as can to be present. – *Pastor Brian*

## **HURRICANE MELISSA OFFERING**

Thanks to all who were able to give an extra offering for Hurricane Melissa relief. \$273 were received and sent to The United Methodist Committee on Relief.

### **OUR PRAYER INTENTIONS**

For D.J. and Emily Fine on the death of their father, Daniel Fine, Sr. and his memorial service yesterday.

For Brett, the Behlman's son-in-law as he recovers from surgery; and their daughter Lindsey, caring for her husband Brett.

For Carol Quinby, with thanksgiving for improved vision.

For Nancy Ossewaarde, with thanksgiving for continued healing.

For the Voyack family (friends of Pastor Brian and Carol), grieving the deaths of both brother Robert and granddaughter Ionna.

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 Gaston Ntambo, and Jean Ntambo.

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 30**

**"FAITH AND FICTION" BOOK CLUB**, 8:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**CHANCEL CHOIR WARM-UP**, 9:15 a.m., Sanctuary

**"HANGING OF THE GREENS" REHEARSAL**, 9:45 a.m., Sanctuary

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

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

#### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3**

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

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

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4**

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

## **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6**

**CHRISTMAS CAFÉ, 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

## **NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7**

### **THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper set to the tunes of familiar carols. Lighting the candle of Preparation will be Mollie Bodwell, Mel, Laurie and Emilie Cole, and Marion Lowman. The sermon "*Repent? Who, Me?*" will be based on Isaiah 40:1-5 and Matthew 3:1-12. We will receive Woodbury Food Bank donations and gifts to the pastor's discretionary fund. Our liturgist and communion assistant will be Bud Behlman. After worship, free blood pressure screenings will be offered in the Assembly Room by Carol Galloway, MSPT.

### **ON-GOING MINISTRIES**

**CURRENT WOODBURY FOOD BANK NEEDS are pumpkin, cherry or apple pie filling, pie crust mix, crispy onion rings (for green bean casserole).** Please leave them in the Foyer box.

*"I was hungry and you gave me food...."* Jesus, Matthew 25:35

### **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.

### **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](mailto:jojenu78@earthlink.net).

# Christmas Cafe

HOSTED BY WOODBURY  
UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH

SOUPS, SANDWICHES AND  
BAKED GOODS FOR SALE.

COMPLIMENTARY TOURS OF  
OUR 1839 SANCTUARY.

4 Church Street, Woodbury

Saturday, December 6th

11:30 am - 2:00 pm





# Grief, Healing, and the Holidays

Join us for a presentation  
with insights and strategies to help  
manage the journey of "the holidays"  
during a season of loss.

*This is a non-sectarian event and  
all are welcome.*

Woodbury United Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
4 Church Street, Woodbury  
Sunday, December 14, 11:45 a.m.

*Presenter: The Rev. Garrett Walkup,  
RVNAhealth Spiritual Care and  
Bereavement Coordinator*



## 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 7<sup>th</sup>.**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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(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!***