

# **NOTICES FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025**

## **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, Minister of Music      Matti Paparazzo, Admin. Assistant*

### **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 "*Spiritual Wellness.*" 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:**

Liturgists and Communion Assistant: Bud Behlman

A.V. Tech: Christine Shupenis

Ushers and Greeters: Mark Riefenhauser and Catherine Mason

Fellowship Time Host: Family Nurture and Hospitality

**FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS** are offered after worship today in the Assembly Room by Carol Galloway, MSPT.

**"MOVIE WITH A MESSAGE" is this Friday, 6 p.m.** Please sign up on the sheets in the Foyer and Fellowship Hall or the link in the notice below so we can plan adequate pizza and popcorn!

### **DEADLINES TODAY**

**2026 Pledges** to support Christ's ministry may be left in the offering plate, given to Financial Secretary Rynn Naylor or left in her in-office mailbox. Extra pledge cards are on the Foyer document table.

Pledges are welcome at any time but we will announce results in this week's publications. Thank you for supporting Christ's ministry!

**Christmas poinsettia** orders are due today on the enclosed form.

Flowers will be on display December 21 and 24 and may be taken after the 5 p.m. Christmas Eve worship. Please mark payments clearly in the morning offering or to Financial Secretary Rynn Naylor. Please do not leave donations in other locations.

## **THIS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12: MOVIES WITH A MESSAGE**

The Christian Education Committee continues hosting entertaining and thought-provoking movies. The second of these evenings shows "Journey to Bethlehem" **this Fri', Dec. 12.** Complimentary pizza at 6 p.m. will be followed by the movie and then discussion. Yes, there will be popcorn! It is helpful for ordering pizza if you will sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A45AEAD2CA6FACE9-60553415-wumc> or on the sign-up sheets in the Foyer and Fellowship Hall. Subsequent dates are Saturdays, January 24 and April 11, 2026.

## **OUR PRAYER INTENTIONS**

For Michael Hennessey, Carol Hennessey's brother-in-law.

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 Voyak family (friends of Pastor Brian and Carol), grieving the deaths of both brother Robert and granddaughter Ayanna.

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).

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, DECEMBER 7**

**HOLY COMMUNION**, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

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

### **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9**

**PASTOR'S ONE-ON-ONE W/ D.S. HEATHER**, 4 p.m., Bethel UMC

### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10**

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

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

## **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11**

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

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**, 7 p.m., Assembly Room

## **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12**

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

**MOVIE NIGHT**, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall

## **NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14**

### **THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

The sermon “*Removing the Cataracts*” will be based on Isaiah 35:1-10, James 5:7-10 and Matthew 11:2-11. Our liturgist will be Mark Davis. Lighting the candle of Joy will be Mark and Cathy Riefenhauser and Keri Lavish. Our “*Testimony*” presenter will be Rynn Naylor. After worship, the Rev. Garrett Walkup, a hospice chaplain, will offer a presentation in Fellowship Hall entitled “*Grief, Healing and the Holidays*.” See the notice below.

### **“GRIEF, HEALING AND THE HOLIDAYS”**

**Next Sunday, December 14**, after worship at 11:45 a.m., the Rev. Garrett Walkup will discuss 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 can stir memories and emotions leading to sorrow and heartache.

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.

### **ON-GOING MINISTRY**

**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

### **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*

## Christmas Cards for Peace

As we look around the world, we see violent conflict that causes hunger, migration, and destruction of infrastructure – leaving people without hope. This Advent, we wait for the coming of the Prince of Peace so that the world might be reconciled, and peace might prevail. A peace that is anchored in justice and mercy. A peace that shows compassion for those whose lives are disrupted, whose bodies are broken, and whose voices are so often drowned out. As we wait, though, we – Christ's body in this world – can shine the light of God's peace on the violent conflicts around the world and those seeking justice closer to home. May we lift our voices in prayer and advocacy and mediation. May our hands and feet move in ways that demonstrate peace.

We can help those most impacted by food insecurity, drastic energy rate increases and unsustainable rent costs close to home by putting our dollars toward organizations that help provide some financial peace during unexpectedly chaotic times in the lives of some families.

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. Being good stewards of their own funds, the CSCW also partners with many other local and state organizations to extend its advocacy and resources to benefit Woodbury residents, identifying other organizations that can provide a family with needed help that may decrease their overall expenses to see them through difficult times.

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.

Prince of Peace, people around the world and close to home are living amid conflict that leads to hunger, destruction, and hopelessness. Please bless our world with peace and grant relief to those suffering. Let us be beacons of light to everyone experiencing hunger and poverty as a result of conflict.

## CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

**Christmas Sunday, December 21, 10:30 a.m.** – Christmas pageant and sermon *"Fashioning the Crib of Christ."*

**Christmas Eve, December 24, 5 p.m.** – Carols and candlelight with the message *"For Those Who Say 'Yes!'"*

*"O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord."*

## 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!

**WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
4 CHURCH ST WOODBURY, CT  
woodburyumc.net | 203-263-4775



**MOVIE NIGHTS**



Scan to RSVP

### **Journey to Bethlehem** PG

A young woman carrying an unimaginable responsibility. A young man torn between love & honor. A jealous king who will stop at nothing to keep his crown. This live-action Christmas musical celebration for the entire family, weaves classic Christmas melodies in to new pop songs in a music-infused retelling of the timeless story of Mary, Joseph and the birth of Jesus.

**Friday, December 12 @ 6 PM**  
**WUMC Fellowship Hall**  
**Popcorn, Pizza, & More**  
***Movies with a Message Series***

### **SAVE THE DATES:**

Fri., Dec. 12   Sat., Jan. 24   Sat., Apr. 11





# 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*



OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS  
JOIN US FOR

# Hopeful Readings & Reflections

RESPONSES IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

7-7:45 pm

Tuesdays

10/21, 11/18, 12/16

Woodbury United Methodist Church Sanctuary  
4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT

Scan for  
Readings



Scan for  
Parking Info



Event Format:

1. Welcome & quiet centering
2. Reading & conversation
3. Prayer & meditation
4. Sending forth

WOODBURYUMC.NET  
203-263-4775 | WUMC@WOODBURYUMC.NET

## 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!***