

# Woodbury United Methodist Church



The Third Sunday of Easter

April 19, 2026

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)

## April 19, 2026

\*Please stand as you are able.

### WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*"Nocturne in E flat"*

F. Chopin

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on John 3:8-9 and Genesis 1:2

L: The Spirit blows where it wills.

P: *Coming from where? Going to what?*

L: Ah! God's creating Spirit moves as it wills.

P: *How can this be?*

L: Because God loved the world and desired none should perish!

**ALL: LET US WORSHIP THIS CREATING, SAVING GOD!**

\*HYMN

*"Spirit of God, Bright Wind"*

TFWS #2117

#### THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Eternal God, as we gather for worship, we lift our hearts and open our lives to you. May your Spirit move among us, uniting us with faithful people of every time and place. May your Spirit move within us, empowering us to share your Good News with all people. May your Spirit move through us, making us channels of your love. Come, Spirit, come. Fill our hearts with your love. Amen.*

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

*God of abundant grace, you breathe your Spirit into the world as a gift beyond our deserving - a Spirit of life, freedom, and joy. Yet we confess that we do not always receive this gift with care. We grow distracted by our worries and we cling to habits that diminish life. Instead of rejoicing in your presence, we settle for lesser joys. Forgive us, we pray. Open our hearts again to the wonder of your Spirit among us. Restore us in the delight of knowing you, the joy of walking in your ways, and the freedom of lives shaped by your love. For we ask this in Christ's name. Amen*

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF PARDON

FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

## WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

- THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Genesis 1:1-4a  
\*THE GOSPEL John 1:29-42  
\*HYMN "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" UMH #420  
THE SERMON "What's the Holy Spirit Up To?" The Rev. Tim Hare

## 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.**  
TESTIMONY Chris Shay

VIDEO PRESENTATION FOR "MIRACLE SUNDAY"

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING AND OFFERING OUR GIFTS,

- OFFERTORY "Blessings" Laura Story  
The Chancel Choir

- \*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 "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart" UMH #500  
\*BENEDICTION

- POSTLUDE "O Hail This Brightest Day of Days" 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

## OUR GUEST PREACHER TODAY

The Rev. Tim Hare is a 1998 graduate of Yale Divinity School and a pastor of 27 years, having served three United Methodist churches as well as the Trumbull Congregational Church from 2014-2025. In his current position as Director of Mission Engagement and Community Outreach at Masonicare, a senior retirement and healthcare network throughout CT, Tim works in areas of spiritual life, community relations, volunteerism, system promotions, and mission development. In his new position he especially enjoys building relationships with residents and sharing Masonicare's unique approach to senior care with emerging community partners. Tim is also a husband to Angela Hare, who teaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade English, and father to Charley (college sophomore) and Lucy (high school senior.) Fun fact: Pastor Tim and Pastor Brian share a history of having served the Huntington UMC church for 10-year periods - the longest pastoral tenures of that congregation. In Tim's spare time he likes reading, watching college hoops, and playing mediocre golf. We welcome Rev. Hare to our pulpit and church today.

## 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.

**PRINTED COPIES OF THE SERMON**, along with **LARGE PRINT BULLETINS**, are available on the document table in the Foyer.

**FELLOWSHIP TIME** follows worship downstairs. Invite someone new to you to join you!

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

Liturgist: Karen Fimmano

A.V. Tech: Mark Riefenhauser and Dan Guinipero

Ushers and Greeters: Carol Quinby and Patti Thomas

Fellowship Time Host: Carol Quinby

**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).

## NOTICES

**MIRACLE SUNDAY**, a denomination-wide initiative to support higher education for our United Methodist clergy in the Philippines, Africa and Europe. Today, 71% of U.S. UMC clergy have graduate degrees. Outside the U.S., it is 5%. This is not from lack of interest, but from lack of funding for advanced education. The 30,000 United Methodist congregations will receive a special offering on *Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>*. Please prayerfully consider making this “second mile” gift.

**THE NAMES OF ALL SCHOOL GRADUATES** are due *Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>* for recognition at our May 17<sup>th</sup> Christian Education worship.

We will recognize WUMC graduates of eighth grade, high school, post-secondary training, college, or graduate programs; and present the WUMC Scholarship during worship on May 17<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate Education Sunday. Parents or graduates please let us know of your graduation via this online form

<https://forms.gle/juJaSqieg2LhiQ35A> or by emailing the graduate's name, school, degree type, & program of study &/or major to [communications@woodburyumc.net](mailto:communications@woodburyumc.net). To ensure inclusion in the Graduate Recognition Bulletin insert, please let us know of grads no later than May 8.

### **WUMC Scholarship: Scholarship Form Due May 3!**

Woodbury UMC has a scholarship for WUMC graduating high school seniors who are active in our congregation. To be considered for the scholarship, we ask that the young person complete our scholarship form which is available as a Google form on this link, <https://forms.gle/FNzzSkUPDBXDALcx6>. A printable or paper form can be provided upon request.

The **scholarship form must be submitted by Sunday, May 3**. Please also **email a photo of the graduating senior to** [communications@woodburyumc.net](mailto:communications@woodburyumc.net). We include the photo and biography portion of the scholarship form in our worship bulletin for Education Sunday.

For questions or assistance with either form, please contact Catherine Mason at 203-707-6571 or [catherine.mason02@outlook.com](mailto:catherine.mason02@outlook.com).

**FAITH AND FICTION BOOK CLUB** meets next Sunday, April 26, 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. The book is My Friends by Fredrik Bachman. To obtain the book or the remaining books and schedule through June, contact Christine Shupenis at [cshupenis@gmail.com](mailto:cshupenis@gmail.com).

**PASTORAL TRANSITION NOTES:** Pastor Brian's last Sunday will be May 31<sup>st</sup>. After worship a light luncheon will be held from 11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m. to recognize him and Carol Galloway. Pastor Bill Florin begins July 1<sup>st</sup> with his first Sunday on July 5<sup>th</sup>. June worship and pastoral coverage will be offered by the Reverends Thomason, Walkup and Hibbard as scheduled. If you desire more information about the transition, contact any member of Staff-Parish Relations. Their contacts may be obtained through the church office (203.263.4775 or [wumc@woodburyumc.net](mailto:wumc@woodburyumc.net))

**WUMC's CROSSROADS FORUM PRESENTS**  
**"Community Response to Immigration Enforcement:**  
*Faithful Next Steps"*

Christian Education and Affirmation & Inclusion ministry teams are hosting this compelling forum. The panel of presenters will include Rev. Paul Fleck, Prof. Carina Bandhauer, and a representative from Danbury Unites for Immigrants. Rev. Fleck is a former attorney and the current Executive Director of *Immigration Law & Justice New York*.

Prof. Bandhauer teaches sociology at a local university, specializing in immigration studies, racism, and Latin America. She is also a founding member of *Danbury Unties for Immigrants*, serves on the Board of Directors for *Connecticut Students for a Dream*, and coordinates the *UndocuAlly Task Force*.

A member of *Danbury Unites for Immigrants* will share their personal experience. The goals of the evening are to bring greater awareness regarding immigrants - legal status, rights, misperceptions, and ICE activity – along with specific resources and opportunities to become involved in immigrant advocacy.

Crossroads is a free event that is open to the public, so please plan to attend and invite others to join on:

**Sunday May 3rd at 6:30 – 8:00 PM**

*Doors will open at 6 PM with light refreshments available.*

Registration is not required, but it is encouraged.

Please contact the church office or use this QR code:



## THE WEEK AHEAD....

### SUNDAY, APRIL 19

**9:45 a.m.** Chancel Choir warm-up

**10:30 a.m.** Worship

**11:30 a.m.** Fellowship Time

**11:45 a.m.** Communications meeting, Wesley Room

### MONDAY, APRIL 20

**HANDBELLS FOR BEGINNERS**, 3:30 – 4:30 p.m., Assembly Room

### TUESDAY, APRIL 21

**OPEN DOORS MID-WEEK PRAYER**, 7 p.m., Sanctuary

### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

**BELL CHOIR REHEARSAL**, 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary

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

### THURSDAY, APRIL 23

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

### FRIDAY, APRIL 24

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

## MORE APRIL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

**FAITH AND FICTION BOOK**, April 26, 8:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

**STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS**, April 27, 6:30 p.m., Assembly Room

## AND TWO FOR MAY!

**“CROSSROADS” FORUM ON IMMIGRATION JUSTICE**, Sunday, May 3, 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Details above.

**COFFEE HOUSE**, Fri., May 8, 6 p.m., Fellowship Hall. Details soon!

## LOOKING AHEAD

**MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**, Saturday, June 6, 8 – 10 a.m., Naugatuck UMC, 208 Meadow Street. Details to come!

## OUR PRAYER INTENTIONS

The rescue of the downed American pilots in Iran.

Prayers for peace in Iraq and for civilians, as well as our troops, in harm’s way.

Kelly Shay’s mother Maureen, had extensive surgery. Prayers for healing.

Gratitude for the success of the Artemis II mission.

Bud Behlman's family member, Taylor, and her health concerns.

The release of the Cheshire High School student who was detained by ICE.

From Toby for Liam and his classmates on safe travels in Ireland.

For Sandy Purdy's aunt who has been given 2 weeks to live after her cancer has returned.

For Nancy Ossewarde and the healing of her knee.

Gratitude on Catherine Mason's aunts health improving.

Safe travels for Marion Lowman.

Healing for Christine Smith's neighbors after surgery.

For Eric, Bud Behlman's friend, having a serious heart procedure.

For Sarah Schivera's former student, a single mother, with cancer.

Thanksgiving for Carol Quinby's eyesight improvement.

For Michelle, friend of Christine Shupenis, being treated for breast cancer.

For Ben, Ken Burke's friend, being treated for cancer.

For Emilie Cole's friend, Keri's mother, experiencing a 2<sup>nd</sup> bout with cancer.

For Eileen Bennett's brother-in-law, Skip, recovering from surgery.

For the continued violence around immigration enforcement.

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

For Carolyn Shay, being treated for a medical condition.

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)

### **ON-GOING MINISTRY**

**CURRENT WOODBURY FOOD BANK NEEDS:** Cookie mix, crushed tomatoes, juice boxes, and kids snacks. *"I was hungry and you gave me food..."* Jesus, Matthew 25:3

### **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!