

Woodbury United Methodist Church



The Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

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

April 26, 2026

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *"Thou Hidden Source of Calm Repose"* C. Wesley/Bortniansky
Pastor Brian Bodt, Soloist

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Acts 2:42-47, CEB

L: What if? P: *"What if" what?*

L: What if we devoted ourselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to shared meals and prayers? Would we be in awe?

P: *Like in Acts 2? Sharing our stuff? Helping those in need?*

L: Yes. Like that.

P: *We do some of it now. The Food Bank. Immigration advocacy. Partnering with Transition Academy... PFLAG... Helping Hands.*

L: And praising and demonstrating God's goodness to everyone?

P: *Uh... we say "Love spoken here."*

L: Right. So let this worship include prayer to strengthen our resolve to do just that.

**ALL: THEN THE LORD WILL ADD DAILY TO THE COMMUNITY
THOSE WHO ARE BEING SAVED.**

*HYMN *"Easter People, Raise Your Voices"* UMH #304

THE COLLECT (*unison, seated*)

Eternal God, the author of all good and perfect gifts: remind us anew that love is an expandable pie, that we may love freely and extravagantly and live triumphantly, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

O Lord, we confess that we too often take for granted a warm and dry place to sleep, food, clothing, employment, and health. Forgive our selfish impulses that lead to hoarding and exploitation of others. And where we are not guilty of such sins, broaden our vision to ask what we might do for others, in Jesus' name. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF PARDON

A SPECIAL RECOGNITION

NOTES ON TODAY'S HYMNS

Today's *prelude* is a Charles Wesley *hymn* set to a tune attributed to Dimitri Fortniansky. Note the contrasting metaphors: "rest in toil," "ease in pain" beginning in stanza 3 and culminating in stanza 4 with Jesus as "in grief my joy unspeakable, my life in death, my heaven in hell." This hymn has been in Methodist hymnals since 1749 and was a favorite of the youth choir at Asbury UMC, Crestwood, New York when Pastor Brian was Associate Pastor nearly 50 years ago.

Today's *congregational hymn tunes* may seem oddly familiar. In the same manner that Charles Wesley repurposed common, secular tunes to his sacred lyrics, today's hymns repurpose tunes for Easter that we might associate with Christmas! Compare #304 with #220, #311 with #237 and #307 with #229. Christ is born! Christ is Risen!

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: Mark Riefenhauser

A.V. Tech: Christine Shupenis and Dan Guinipero

Ushers and Greeters: Mark Davis and Beth Clark

Fellowship Time Host: Mollie Bodwell

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

PASTOR BRIAN AND CAROL will leave for Montreal shortly after worship today to care for her parents. They return Tuesday evening. You may reach him, as always, at 203.747.1781 by text or call.

NOTICES

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS meets tomorrow, April 27, 6:30 p.m., in the Assembly Room.

THE NAMES OF ALL SCHOOL GRADUATES are due Friday, May 8th for recognition at our May 17th 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 17th 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. 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. 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.

MIRACLE SUNDAY is 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 17th. Please prayerfully consider making this "second mile" gift.

PASTORAL TRANSITION NOTES: Pastor Brian's last Sunday will be May 31st. 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 1st with his first Sunday on July 5th. 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)

THE WEEK AHEAD....

SUNDAY, APRIL 26

8:30 a.m. "Faith and Fiction" Book Group

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

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

MONDAY, APRIL 27

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

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

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

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 30

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

FRIDAY, MAY 1

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

SATURDAY, MAY 2

"HELPING HANDS" WORK DAY, 7 a.m.- conclusion, contact Mark Davis, above.

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 3

We will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (Setting A). Our guest music leadership will be *New Praize*, a contemporary youth ensemble from Hamden Plains U.M. Church in Hamden, CT. Our Liturgist and Communion Assistant will be Barb Hunt. Pastor Brian's sermon is entitled "*The Bislett Effect*" based on I Peter 2:2-10. Our monthly "*Testimony*" speaker will be Karen Fimmano. After worship, free blood pressure screenings will be offered in the Assembly Room by Carol Galloway, P.T.

LOOKING AHEAD

COFFEE HOUSE, *Fri., May 8, 6 p.m.*, Fellowship Hall. See insert!

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST, *Saturday, June 6, 8 - 10 a.m.*, Naugatuck UMC, 208 Meadow Street. See reverse!

OUR PRAYER INTENTIONS

Gabriele, widow of the Rev. Ed Carll, friends of Pastor Brian and Carol

Bud's cousin, Eric, who is awaiting cardiac surgery.

Layla is home and doing well.

Young people in our church and community.

People in Michigan affected by tornadoes and flooding.

For a successful surgery and full recovery for Nancy Ossewaarde.

Healing for Eileen Bennett's brother-in-law after surgery and while receiving chemotherapy.

Healing for Eileen Bennett's friend Sonya after a car accident.

Healing for Mike Boisseau's father Norman after heart surgery.

Healing for Mike Boisseau's co-worker who is battling cancer and trying out a new treatment.

Kelly Shay's mother Maureen, who is still recovering from surgery.

For Pastor William Florin, appointed as Woodbury's new pastor effective July 1st, and his family.

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

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

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 or 203.747.1781 for pastoral care. Want a visit? Please let him know. He'd love to meet with you!

Valley Cooperative Parish & A Few Good Men Ministries (AFGM) Invites You To:
Christian Fellowship Breakfast and Car Rally

*What's Under Your **BROTHER**  **HOOD?***



Featuring Keynote Speaker
Thomas McMillan
Author and Men's Ministry Leader

Thomas always provides an inspirational message that is purposeful to men and delivered with an engaging style.
On Saturday June 6th his theme will be:

Brotherhood: The "Guardrail" that keeps you on the road and in your lane!

Learn more about Thomas McMillan at: <http://www.guartrailministries.com/>

Saturday June 6th at 8-10AM

**Naugatuck United Methodist Church
208 Meadow Street
Naugatuck, CT 06770**

This is a free event, but donations will be accepted.
(\$20 suggested)

Please sign up at:



For more information (or to sign up) contact:

**Bud Behlman (203-206-9276)
AFGM.Ministry@gmail.com**

SPECIAL FEATURE



Do you have a car, truck, motorcycle, or tractor at least 20 years old? Whether classic, restored, or "project" bring it to the event and show it off to be entered into a *special drawing*.

8:00 Vehicle Line up and Coffee **8:30** Full Breakfast **9:00** Keynote Speaker **10:00** Door Prizes