

Woodbury United Methodist Church



The Second Sunday of Easter

April 12, 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 12, 2026

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Co-Lay Leader Jeff Hunt

PRELUDE

"Amazing Grace"

Newton

Peter and Eve Slifka

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Rebecca Hibbard, Liturgist

L: This is the good news – the grave is empty, Christ is risen!

P: Hallelujah!

L: This is the good news – the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never put it out.

P: Hallelujah!

L: This is the good news – once we were no people, now we are God's people.

P: Hallelujah!

L: Christ is our peace, the indestructible peace we now share with each other.

P: Hallelujah!

*HYMN

"Thine Be the Glory"

UMH #308

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Blessed are you, Creator God. Your saving love endures forever; your holy light pierces the cold darkness of death and chaos; you cut a covenant of life with your creatures, which no evil can overcome. May the glorious radiance of resurrection dispel the shadows in our lives and conform us more closely to your risen Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honor, praise, and glory. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

Almighty God, in raising Jesus from the grave, you shattered the power of sin and death. We confess that we remain captive to doubt and fear, bound by the ways that lead to death. We overlook the poor and hungry, and pass by those who mourn; we are deaf to the cries of the oppressed, and indifferent to calls for peace; we despise the weak, and abuse the earth you made. Forgive us, God of mercy. Help us trust your power to change our lives and make us new, that we may know the joy of life abundant given in Jesus Christ, the risen Lord. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION
FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WORDS OF PARDON
Sarah Schivera

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES II Corinthians 4:1-18

*HYMN "Hymn of Promise" UMH #707

THE SERMON "We Do Not Lose Heart" The Rev. John Thomason

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS Certified Lay Servant Bud Behlman

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING AND OFFERING OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore" Gabarain
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 "Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise" UMH #312

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "Amazing Grace" (reprise) Newton
+ + +

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. John Thomason is a retired Elder in the New York Annual Conference. He served as the pastor of Woodbury United Methodist Church from 2013-2021. Please notice the modest tribute to him on the wall next to the foyer elevator. Welcome, Pastor John!

Pastor Brian Bodt is preaching at Greenfield Hill Congregational Church, Fairfield, CT where he serves part-time as Pastor of Community Care (pastoral care).

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!

FREE BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENINGS are offered after worship by Michael Pinevich, LPN, in the Assembly Room.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION meets at 11:45 a.m. in the Wesley Room.

WE THANK TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Liturgist: Rebecca Hibbard

A.V. Tech: Mark Davis

Ushers and Greeters: JoAnn Behlman and Sandy Purdy

Fellowship Time Host: Michael Pinevich and Eileen Bennett

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

PFLAG MEETS THIS TUESDAY AT 6 p.m. in the Assembly Room. Stonewall speaker Michelle Cummings will be presenting on her experience as a transgender woman.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets Thursday, Apr. 16, 7 p.m. in the Assembly Room. Chairs submitting written reports should do so by Tuesday, April 14 to Bud Behlman at budbehlman@charter.net

MOVIE NIGHT is this Saturday, 5:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This free, "spirit-lifter" event is hosted by Christian Education under the leadership of Catherine Mason. The movie is "Soul Surfer." See flyer for more details.

PASTORAL TRANSITION NOTES: His last Sunday will be May 31st. We have run the names of Staff-Parish Relations members for many weeks for those with questions. You may find them in prior editions of the weekly bulletin or "*Living Through Grace*," or by contacting the church office (office contacts in this bulletin).

THE WEEK AHEAD....

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

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

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Blood pressure screenings

11:45 a.m. Christian Education meeting Wesley Room

MONDAY, APRIL 13

AFFIRMATION AND INCLUSION, 7 p.m., Assembly Room

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

PFLAG SPECIAL SPEAKER, 6 p.m., Assembly Room

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

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

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

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

CHURCH COUNCIL, 7 p.m., Assembly Room

FRIDAY, APRIL 17

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 18

MOVIE NIGHT, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

MORE APRIL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

COMMUNICATIONS COMM., *April 19, 11:45 a.m.*, Wesley Room
OPEN DOORS MID-WEEK PRAYER, *April 21, 7 p.m.*, Sanctuary
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. See the article in this issue.
COFFEE HOUSE, *Friday, May 8, 6 p.m.*, Fellowship Hall. Details to come!

LOOKING AHEAD

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST, *Saturday, June 6, 8:30 – 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.

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

Thanksgiving for Carol Quinby's eyesight improvement.

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 Emilie Cole's friend, Keri's mother, experiencing a 2nd bout with cancer.

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

For Catherine's aunt facing end-of-life health challenges.

For Nancy Guthrie, kidnapped, and her family.

For the continued violence around immigration enforcement.

Debbie Eisemann, friend of Sandy Purdy, recovering at the Lutheran Home from a fall

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

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.

For those facing life's difficulties and medical challenges, especially Carol Hennessey, Nancy Ossewaarde, 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.

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!

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:



WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4 CHURCH ST WOODBURY, CT

woodburyumc.net | 203-263-4775



MOVIE NIGHTS



Scan to RSVP



Soul Surfer ^{PG}

NEW DATE:

Saturday, April 18 @ 5:30 PM

WUMC Fellowship Hall

Popcorn, Pizza, & More
Movies with a Message Series



In this inspiring tale based on a true story, Bethany Hamilton (AnnaSophia Robb) relies on her faith and the support of her parents as she attempts a comeback at championship surfing after losing an arm in a shark attack.