

**ASH WEDNESDAY
WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4 CHURCH STREET
WOODBURY, CONNECTICUT 06798**

February 18, 2026
7 p.m.

ENTRANCE AND PRAISE

+ Those able please stand

Words of Welcome

+Hymn "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" UMH #269

+Call to Worship **The Book of Worship, 1965 (Methodist)**

L: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
P: ***God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor require us according to our iniquities.***

I: What shall I render to the Lord for all God's bounty to me?

L: What shall I render to the Lord for all God's bounty to me?
R: *I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord*

The Book of Common Prayer, 1882 (Episcopal)

Almighty and everlasting God, who hatest nothing that thou hast made, and dost forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of thee, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to say when we pray....

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.

PROCLAMATION

Prayer for Illumination *(unison)*

As we hear your scripture read, O Lord, may we hear with fresh ears and receive with fresh hearts. And may the words of our mouths, and the meditations of our hearts, be acceptable in your sight, our Rock and our Redeemer. Amen.

The Epistle to the Corinthians

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|-------------|--|----------------------|
| +Hymn | <i>"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"</i> | UMH #301 |
| +The Gospel | | Matthew 6:1-6; 16-21 |
| The Sermon | <i>"Followers"</i> | Pastor Brian Bodt |

RESPONSE IN COMMITMENT AND CONFESSION

Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline

Thanksgiving over the Ashes

The Imposition of Ashes and Penitential Prayer

All are invited forward for prayer at the Communion rail.
Those desiring ashes come directly to the pastor.
Those not desiring ashes may go directly to the rail.
After your time of prayer please return to your seat.

Words of Pardon

+The Peace

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you. *People: And also with you.*

Presentation of Offerings

Offertory: *"Open My Eyes Lord"* The Chancel Choir Bob Cull

GOING FORTH

+Hymn "What Wondrous Love Is This" UMH #292

+The Benediction

“Blessed Peace”

“Blessed Peace” J. Brahms

ASH WEDNESDAY AND LENT

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent (from a word meaning "Spring"), the 40 days (not including Sundays) prior to Easter. Ashes are an ancient symbol of repentance and sorrow. A time of reflection and repentance, Lent journeys to the cross so that we may fully rejoice in the resurrection of Christ at Easter. Our worship during Lent is listed on the facing page.

TONIGHT'S ORDER OF WORSHIP...

*...is taken from **The United Methodist Book of Worship**, 1992.*

LENTEN WORSHIP AT WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Open Doors Mid-Week Prayer and Meditation

7 – 7:45 p.m., March 17, in the sanctuary.

Ash Wednesday, February 18

7:30 a.m. – simple 30-minute service with imposition of ashes.
7 p.m. – traditional service with music by Bell and Chancel choirs.

Lenten Sunday Worship

February 22 and March 1, 8, 15 and 22 - 10:30 a.m. preaching services, music by the Chancel Choir each week and the Bell Choir on March 8 and 29 and April 2 and 5.

“Lent on the Road” Theme: “Tell Me Something Good”

Tuesdays, 6 p.m. soup supper, 7 p.m. worship

February 24, South Britain Congregational Church, 693 South Britain Rd., Southbury
March 3, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 294 Main Street South, Woodbury
March 10, St. James Lutheran Church, 111 Peter Road, Southbury
March 17, United Church of Christ, 283 Main Street North, Southbury
March 24, Roxbury Congregational Church, 24 Church Street, Roxbury

Holy Week

March 29 – 10:30 a.m. – Palm Sunday: procession of palms, music by the Bell and Chancel Choirs, message, *“Lord, Are We Able?”* Order of Confirmation for Luke Nathaniel Shay.

April 2 – 7 p.m. – Maundy Thursday: Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Music by the Bell and Chancel Choirs. Message: *“The Holy Grail”*

April 3 – 7 p.m. – Good Friday ecumenical worship at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 294 Main Street South, Woodbury.

Easter Day

April 5 – 7 a.m. – Easter Sunrise Service at Hollow Park, Woodbury.

April 5 – 10:30 a.m. – Festive Easter worship, music by the Bell and Chancel Choirs. Sacrament of Holy Communion (Setting B). Message: *“Love Lives Forever.”* We will receive Woodbury Food Bank donations and gifts to the pastor’s discretionary fund.