

Woodbury United Methodist Church



The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 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

March 22, 2026

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"I See God"

Peter Slifka

Eve Slifka, Maddy Meeker, Peter Slifka, Rod Carnes

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Romans 8:16-18, NRSV, ed.

L: We are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God
and joint heirs with Christ--

P : *If, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified
with him.*

L: The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with
the glory that is about to be revealed to us.

**ALL: LET US WORSHIP THE GOD OF GLORY, REVEALED
IN JESUS, THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE.**

*HYMN

"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

UMH #298

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

UMH #461, ed.

*Gracious God, your Son wept with Mary and Martha at the
tomb of Lazarus. Look with compassion on all who grieve. Grant
the assurance of your presence now and faith in your eternal
goodness, that in them may be fulfilled the promise that those who
mourn shall be comforted; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*unison*)

*O Lord, sometimes the wounds of grief are so deep that we
turn away from you and the way of holy living. We confess that we
try to drown our sorrows with whatever dulls the pain. In so doing
we substitute another god for the healing and salvation that only
You can give. Forgive our unbelief, reminding us again that in life, in
death, and in life beyond death, you are with us. Amen*

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF PARDON

FOR THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Psalm 130 UMH #516
(with sung response)

*THE GOSPEL John 11:1-45

*HYMN *"Hallelujah! What a Savior"* UMH #165

THE SERMON *"An Early Easter"* Pastor Brian Bodt

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.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MOMENT *Wilma Rudolph* Carol Galloway

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING AND OFFERING OUR GIFTS,

OFFERTORY *"Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling"* Will Thompson
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 *"Up From the Grace He Arose"* UMH #322

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *"I See God"* (reprise) Peter Slifka

+ + +

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*

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: Dan Guinipero

A.V. Tech: Christine Shupenis and Mark Riefenhauser

Ushers and Greeters: Patti Thomas and Mark Davis

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

LENT ON THE ROAD, an ecumenical Lenten fellowship and worship experience, concludes this Tuesday, March 24 at North Congregational Church, 11 Main Street North, Woodbury. A 6 p.m. complimentary light supper is followed by 7 p.m. worship.

CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY will be Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Come help us spruce up our church grounds before Holy Week. Small and large tasks with a wide range of skill levels. For more information, contact Mark Riefenhauser at 203.558.1685 or fs5516@yahoo.com

FAITH AND FICTION BOOK CLUB meets Palm Sunday, March 29, 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.

PASTORAL TRANSITION NOTES: Staff-Parish Relations will update the congregation through the transition process and welcomes questions at any time, as does Pastor Brian. The members of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee follow. For contacts, reach the church office at 203.263.4775 or wumc@woodburyumc.net.

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE (Par. 258.2)

CLASS OF 2026

Christine Shupenis
Sherry Swanhall
Rae Ann Hockenberry
Lay Leader: Jeff Hunt

CLASS OF 2027

Bud Behlman
Mark Davis
Meg Temple

CLASS OF 2028

Patti Thomas
Sarah Schiviera
Keri Lavish

Lay Member of Conference: Catherine Mason

THE WEEK AHEAD....

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

WORSHIP, 10:30 a.m., Sanctuary

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

COMMUNICATIONS, 11:45 a.m., Wesley Room

CONFIRMATION TUTORIAL, Noon, Assembly Room

MONDAY, MARCH 23

LENTE STUDY, 10 a.m., Assembly Room

CHRISTIAN ED. PLANNING SUB-GROUP, 5:15 p.m., Assembly

LENTE STUDY, 6 p.m., Assembly Room

AFFIRMATION AND INCLUSION, 7:10 p.m., Assembly Room

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

"LENT ON THE ROAD", 6 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. worship, North Congregational Church, 11 Main Street North, Woodbury

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

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

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

THURSDAY, MARCH 26

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

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY, 9 a.m.- 1 p.m., Church Grounds

NEXT SUNDAY, PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29

The Triumphal Entry in Matthew 21:1-11 begins Holy Week's drama that concludes with the Passion readings of Isaiah 50:4-9a and Philippians 2:5-11 and the sermon "*Lord, Are We Able?*". Music by the Chancel and Bell Choirs. We will celebrate the Order of Confirmation for Luke Nathaniel Shay. Our liturgist will be Liam McGrath.

HOLD THESE DATES

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 3 *p.m.* Worship Supporting our Immigrant Neighbors at Ashbury United Methodist Church (90 Church Ave. Forestville, CT 06010).

SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 10 *a.m.* CT District Conference. Location TBD

OUR PRAYER INTENTIONS

For Theodore Sr. and Jr., father and brother of Catherine, both of whom died in the month of March; and for Catherine's grandmother Elizabeth.

For the joy of the Bell Choir.

For all the women in our church who serve so faithfully.

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.

Christine Smith, recovering from a broken ankle.

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

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

For Carol Quinby, with thanksgiving for stable vision in her right eye and continued healing prayers for her left eye.

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.

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), Hannah Reasoner, and Lorraine Charinda

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: canned black olives, brownie mix, paper towels, ramen, and kids snacks. Thank you in advance for your donations! *"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!

Are you on our *"Living through Grace"* weekly email? If not, please contact the Church Office at wumc@woodburyumc.net

Publication deadline for the weekly bulletin and *"Living through Grace"* e-newsletter is **10 a.m. THURSDAY.** Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS ARE DUE TODAY!

Please use the form below and submit to Cathy Riefenhauser. The Garden had an unforeseen delay in getting the Easter flower information out to churches. As a result, we need to order the flowers right away so that we have them in time for Easter Sunday. Please complete the Altar Easter Flowers order form and return it in the collection plate or the church office with your check made payable to Woodbury United Methodist Church. ***DUE BY TODAY!***

Altar Easter Flowers 2026

Every Easter, our sanctuary is decorated with the flowers of the season. If you would like to place a plant on the Altar, we are now taking orders for:

_____ ***Easter Lily*** (11.50)

_____ ***Daffodils*** (\$7.75)
(yellow only)

_____ ***Tulip*** (\$7.75)
(choose red or lavender/pink)

**Please include below your acknowledgement; in honor of, in celebration of, or in loving memory of one or more loved ones. A list will be printed in the church bulletin on Easter Sunday.*

All flower orders must be paid in advance. *Simply fill out the form below, and place it in the collection plate, or return it to the church office, accompanied by a check or cash for the total amount or mail it to; 4 Church Street, Attention: Easter Flowers. All checks should be made payable to Woodbury United Methodist Church.*

Please return all orders by Sunday, March 22nd

Name: _____

Telephone: _____

In honor/celebration/loving memory of: (please circle one):

**If you would rather give a monetary donation to the church in lieu of flowers, you can use one of the memorial cards located in the Narthex. Simply fill it out & return it in the same fashion as the floral order form.*