

Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, May 17, 2026

Christian Education Sunday

"We've a Story to Tell"

10:30 AM Worship

Honoring Youth Education *Matthew 19:13-15* Beth Clark

Story, Echo Prayer and One-Room Sunday School initiative

*HYMN OF PREPARATION *"Thy Word"* UMH #601

SERMON *"This Is My Story"* Bradyn Boisseau and Dane Guinipero

RECOGNIZING GRADUATES

Introduction of high school graduates Pastor Brian Bodt

Presentation of senior scholarships Catherine Mason

Presentation of Letter and Devotional Pastor Brian Bodt

A TIME OF PRAYER

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS 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.

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

MIRACLE SUNDAY VIDEO

OFFERING OUR GIFTS, including special *Miracle Sunday* gifts

OFFERTORY *"His Eye is on the Sparrow"* Charles Gabriel

The Chancel Choir, with soloists

Liam McGrath, Sam Temple and Maddy Meeker

*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

*RECESSIONAL HYMN UMH #569

"We've a Story to Tell to the Nations"

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *"Light of the World"* Stephen Schwartz

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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, Minister of Music Matti Paparazzo, Admin. Assistant*

TODAY AT WOODBURY UMC

TODAY IS CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUNDAY! We lift all the areas of spiritual formation in our church, including recognizing graduates and presenting scholarships. Our Christian Education Committee has planned this service, chaired by Bob Asman and with members Bud Behlman, Beth Clark, Catherine Mason, Rynn Naylor, Sarah Schivera, Christine Shupenis, Meg Temple and Pastor Brian Bodt. Thanks to all!

TODAY IS ALSO MIRACLE SUNDAY a denomination-wide initiative supporting higher education for our United Methodist clergy in the Philippines, Africa and Europe. 71% of U.S. UMC clergy have graduate degrees while outside the U.S. it is 5%: not from lack of interest, but from lack of funding for advanced education. 30,000 United Methodist congregations are receiving this special offering today. Please give as you are able this "second mile" gift.

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.

FELLOWSHIP TIME follows worship downstairs. Invite someone you don't know to join you!

VISION 2025 EMPHASIS TODAY is "*Spiritual Wellness.*" We view one area weekly: Evangelism, Missions, Communications, Affirmation and Inclusion, Youth and Young Adults and Congregational Vitality and Growth: Spiritual Wellness, Financial Health, Inviting Facilities.

WE THANK TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Liturgists: as listed

A.V. Tech: Mark Riefenhauser

Fellowship Time Hosts: Christian Education Committee

Ushers and Greeters: Sandy Purdy and James Levario

NOTICES

OPEN DOORS MID-WEEK PRAYER is this Tuesday, May 19, 7 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come, pray, be encouraged by others. In the words of John Greenleaf Whittier “*Drop thy still dews of quietness till all our strivings cease; take from our souls the strain and stress, and let our ordered lives confess the beauty of thy peace.*” UMH #358, vs. 4

UNITED METHODIST VISITING MISSIONARY HANNA REASONER is currently serving in Columbia and will share her story on this Tuesday, May 19th at Watertown UMC, 305 Main Street at Noon and Great Hill UMC, Seymour, 225 Great Hill Road at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend either time and will surely be blessed to hear how God is working through Hannah in Columbia.

FAITH AND FICTION BOOK CLUB meets Sunday, May 31st, 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. For more information contact Meg Temple (203.910.3711) or Christine Shupenis (203.206.2848).

PASTORAL TRANSITION NOTES: Pastor Brian’s last Sunday is May 31st and Pastor Bill Florin’s first Sunday is July 5th, with receptions after each service. June worship and pastoral coverage will be offered by the Reverends Thomason, Walkup and Hibbard as scheduled. Contact any member of Staff-Parish Relations for further information. Their contacts may be obtained through the church office (203.263.4775 or wumc@woodburyumc.net)

THE WEEK AHEAD....

SUNDAY, MAY 17

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

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

TUESDAY, MAY 19

MISSIONER HANNAH REASONER, Noon, Watertown UMC and 6:30 p.m., Great Hill UMC, Seymour. Addresses above.

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

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20

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

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

THURSDAY, MAY 21

SOUTHBURY-WOODBURY CLERGY, 9:30 a.m., Congregation
B'nai Israel, Southbury
OFFICE HOURS, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Church

FRIDAY, MAY 22

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

NEXT SUNDAY, MAY 24

PENTECOST / ALDERSGATE DAY

“A Visit from Mr. Wesley” is an Aldersgate Day and Pentecost sermon based on Acts 2:1-4 and Romans 5:1-5. Our liturgist will be Sam Temple. We will remember those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in a Memorial Day litany.

LOOKING AHEAD

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST, Saturday, June 6, 8:30 – 10 a.m.,
Naugatuck UMC, 208 Meadow Street. See flier for details!

OUR PRAYER INTENTIONS

Dear WUMC family,

In this pastoral transition period we need more timely updating of prayer concerns. I believe the written list is a helpful addition to the focused prayers of our church. The list below has been edited this week by me contacting every one on last week’s prayer list to be sure they wish the listing to be maintained.

Since I will not soon be here to do this, beginning this week prayers will be published for two weeks. If intentions wish to be continued beyond that time, please contact Matti Paparazzo in the church office (203.263.4775 or wumc@woodburyumc.net).

Thank you in advance for your assistance. – *Pastor Brian*

WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to the Rev. Michael and Shannon Cobb on the death of his father on Friday, May 8. Arrangements were in Philadelphia. Rev. Cobb was pastor of WUMC from 2021-2023. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to them c/o The United Methodist Church of Danbury, 5 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT. 06811

Thanksgiving for college students returning home for the summer.

For Marion Lowman’s May 9th 81st birthday.

For Joe Sharp, friend of Rev. Hibbard, diagnosed with a brain tumor; and for his wife Laura Joy.

For Tara Kovach, colleague of Carol Galloway, undergoing surgery.

For Rev. Adam Hamilton running for US Senate.

For Catherine's mother and all the mothers, in the Church Militant and the Church Triumphant, on Mother's Day.

Prayers for peace in the world, especially conflicts in Iraq, the Sudan, the Ukraine; and for civilians, as well as our troops, in harm's way.

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 and her mother, Jan.

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.

Bishop Bickerton; our 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), Rodrigo Godinez Jimenez, and Eliad Dias Dos Santos

For those facing life's difficulties and medical challenges, especially Carol Hennessey, and Eni Mucco (friend of Jane Hutter).

ON-GOING MINISTRY

CURRENT WOODBURY FOOD BANK NEEDS Chicken Rice Soup, Applesauce, Cookie Mix, Canned Olives and Toilet Paper.

FOR THE CHURCH COMMUNITY

Pastor Brian can be reached at pastor.woodburyumc@gmail.com or 203.747.1781 for pastoral care.

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

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