

The Pylon

Woodmar United Methodist Church
Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world



Pastor Esta Rosario

Dec. 2022/Jan. 2023

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS

Dear Family & Friends of Woodmar,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Happy New Year! Yes, Advent is the beginning of the new year on the Christian calendar. (Advent began on November 27th.) Just as the new year that we celebrate as a culture (January 1st) ushers in opportunities to re-evaluate our lives and life choices, Advent gives us the opportunity to spend time reflecting on our faith journeys.

During this season, the world screams at us, "Buy more! Decorate more! Charge more on your credit card...you can always pay it off later! Be busy! There's no time to be still to prepare your hearts for Christmas! There are things that **MUST BE DONE OR YOU WON'T BE READY!**" According to our consumeristic, materialistic culture, there is no time to "Be still and know that God is God." There's only time to bury ourselves in a frenzy of all-consuming activity that leaves us in debt and exhausted.

Friends, I have good news! Life doesn't have to be that way. We just spent six weeks studying what it means to be good stewards...what it means to carefully and responsibly manage something entrusted to one's care. We reflected on different aspects of stewardship: prayer, Bible reading, worship, being a witness for Jesus, giving our tithes/offerings to the church, and serving. Each week we filled out commitment cards...we have lots of room to grow in our stewardship aka our discipleship, and that is exciting! When we are actively growing and inviting the Holy Spirit to guide us, we will see God doing amazing things all around us and through us!

As we begin the New Year, let's invite each other to grow more and more in our discipleship. Stewardship aka discipleship doesn't end with the conclusion of a sermon series...it continues until we transition from this earthly life into God's Eternal Kingdom, and we *get to* encourage each other along the way! What a blessing! What a joy! What a privilege!

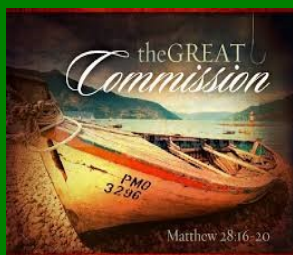
I hope you will attend the "Merry Methodist Christmas Cantata" at Ridge United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 18th at 3PM. Singers from Woodmar, Hammond First, Hyde Park, Ridge, Hobart First, Gary Marquette Park, and Faith Churches have been practicing 1-2 times per week preparing our voices and

PLEASE PRAY THIS PRAYER EVERY DAY:

Holy Spirit, fill me and empower me for the work to which you have called me. Holy Spirit, fill Woodmar United Methodist Church and empower us for the work to which you have called us through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

PEOPLE OF WOODMAR, WHO ARE YOU?

I am a beloved child of God, called and sent to make a difference in the world.



Our Mission:

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Our Vision:

Go. Teach. Love.

our hearts to celebrate the coming of the Babe born in Bethlehem. What an uplifting experience this has been...for brothers and sisters in Christ to come together to encourage each other through song! Please come and celebrate with us!

I am praying for you as you make time to be still during this Advent Season and the New Year. May your heart, mind, and soul be filled with awe and wonder as you reflect on the beauty of God's gift of love.

See you in worship!

Living in the Grip of God's Grace,

Pastor Esta

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Combined Choirs will present a Merry Methodist Christmas Cantata on **Sunday, December 18th** at 3PM at Ridge UMC. Participating churches: Marquette Park, Hobart First, Hammond First, Hyde Park, Ridge, and Woodmar. Each church is asked to bring five desserts to share.



LONGEST NIGHT SERVICE

During the holidays we try "to put on a happy face," even though we might be dying on the inside. If you or someone you know can relate to this due to losing a loved one, losing a job, a divorce, an unexpected diagnosis, or _____, you are

invited to come just as you are to our Longest Night Service on Tuesday, December 20th at 6:30PM in the Lounge/Library. We will read Psalms of Lament, pray, and sing together as we acknowledge our grief in the midst of the hustle and bustle of the "happiest time of the year."

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

4PM – Lessons & Carols, Candle-Light
9PM – Lessons & Carols, Holy Communion, Chancel Choir, Candle-Light



CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

AT 10AM – Yes! Christmas is on a Sunday!
Join us in person or online!



January 8th – We will celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord in worship at 10AM AND with an Epiphany party immediately following in the Community Center. Arroz con gandules (Puerto Rican rice) and pork will be provided. Please bring a dish to share.



INTENTIONAL FAITH DEVELOPMENT

ADVENT STUDY began Tuesday, November 22nd at 10AM via ZOOM and in-person in the Fireside Room.

Week 1: Matthew 24:36-44

Week 2: Matthew 3:1-12

Week 3: Matthew 11:2-11

Week 4: Matthew 1:18-25



Racial Equity will resume on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 at 10AM via ZOOM. We will be listening to a six-week podcast series called "Expanding the Table." Here is the link, if you'd like to get a head start! <https://www.r2hub.org/library/podcast>. There is also a downloadable discussion guide.

Links to all of the studies will be sent out by 8AM the day of each study.

The Bible for Grown-Ups: a 4-week study by Andy Stanley

Please join me (Pastor Esta) on Sundays (January 15th, 22nd, 29th & February 5th), 11:30AM - 1PM in the lounge for this very interesting study!

Description from RightNowMedia:

"As children, many of us received a leather-bound book full of long words and difficult names we couldn't pronounce. We were told everything in it was true and we should do our best to abide by its teachings.

Then we grew up.

What was oh-so-simple then is . . . well, it's not simple. Perhaps that's because we were taught Bible stories but not the story of the Bible. Big difference. In this 4-part series, Andy Stanley gives us a way to approach the Bible that begins with something other than "in the beginning . . ."

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the clergy appreciation gift that was presented to me in worship; our family will enjoy it!

This is what I know: ministry cannot be done in isolation. It takes ALL OF US pulling in the same direction to fulfill the call that God has on our church. So, THANK YOU for your partnership in ministry!!! You are a blessing to me, my family, and our community!

With Gratitude,

Pastor Esta



COMMUNITY
Preschool & Childcare

COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL & CHILDCARE

Thank you for supporting our Butter Braid Bread fundraiser. Our program raised \$1100 for program materials.

We are very excited to bring back The Christmas Pageant on December 15, at 5:30 pm. Stay tuned for pictures in the next issue of the Pylon.

Governing Board of Community Preschool and Childcare – The governing board provides a vital link between our preschool program, our church as a ministry and in maintaining the physical facilities. The continuance of high-quality early education is also a stated goal of the governing board. Since 1990, the purpose of the Board is to:

- Develop and recommend changes in policies
- Approve budget and expenses
- Set tuition
- Hire and terminate employees as necessary
- Ensure open communication with Sunday school teachers who share the same space
- Approve curriculum
- Receive information from the director at each board meeting on the status of the program
- Oversee general operations
- Communicate any major changes to operating procedures and facility to the Church Council for approval.

With gratitude, we look back at the Woodmar UMC members and director that set the course for Community Preschool and Childcare: Diane Drajeske, Kay Musgrave, Betty Lundahl, Georgina Swanson, Carol Solon, Betsey Hartigan, Patricia Olson, Carol Ploense, Phyllis Sovola, Lisa and Jason Mendoza, Mary Zaikis, Dr. Victoria Washington, and pastors Paul Arnold, Bob Rashka and Alex Stone.

We welcome this year's parent representatives on our Board along with Pastor Esta, Debbie Mangerson, Karianne Padilla, Cyndi Slaboski and Cynthia Prieto. Our parent representatives new to the Board are: Niki Avina, Esolina Castillo, Michelle Saksa and David Tolliver. Thank you for serving our children, families and staff.

Return to Puerto Rico: Mission Accomplished and Expanded

The return to Puerto Rico is Dr. Victoria Merrill-Washington's second journey of her mission. Victoria was able to bring books, supplies and Android tablets to Dr. Julio J. Henna Escuela in September 2021 almost 2 years later than her first mission.

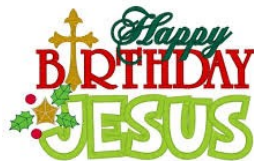
Victoria wanted to share with others how she expanded her vision, gathered courage to weather changes, and completed her resolve to volunteer in the class and bring books and supplies to the schools in Puerto Rico. This is the opportunity to encourage others to look forward in life with the ability to move into the realm of new challenges, missions, and adventures.

Dr. Washington continued raising funds to purchase books and materials after her first mission. Two groups instrumental in funding for the mission were the Highland library loom weaving class and her Woodmar United Methodist Church knit/crochet group. Fortunate to be a part of such caring individuals, Victoria began to sell knitted items she learned to create with all proceeds subsidizing supplies for the school.

Victoria is enormously appreciative to Doraida Rivera, a friend of Pastor Esta and her husband Miguel Rosario's caring family. Victoria is thankful for experiencing the beautiful country and people. The effervescent spirit, pride, and tenacity expressed by those she met has made a lasting impression.

As small pockets of the resurgence of the pandemic continues, so does Victoria's enthusiasm to assist the school. Victoria accomplished her goal, made lifelong friends, and will continue to support the school and country.

2 Echo Brambert
 7 Mary Baggett
 9 Brian Lewis
 19 Madeline Brambert
 20 Jackie Lewis
 21 James Wendell



22 Dan Runyon
 23 Cynthia Slaboski
 24 Ed Baggett
 27 Barbara Iler
 31 Barbara Meeker

Whose
Birthday
 is it?
 January!



2 Prudi Leslie
 6 Nancy Craig
 9 Kristen Slaboski
 11 Emily Morgan
 23 Steve Meeker

IN LOVING SYMPATHY

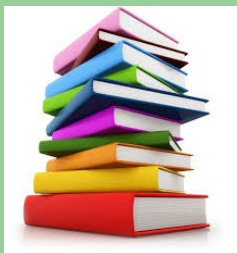


Please pray for the families and friends of Jackie Kapetanovic and of Carl Moore. They both joined our Lord to spend

Christmas in heaven this year. Jackie peacefully passed on Nov. 22. Carl joined his much beloved wife, Susan, on Nov. 27.

WOODMAR BOOK CLUB

Woodmar Book Club



Book club will meet via Zoom on Monday, Jan. 16th, 2023

The January book is *The Man Who Died Twice* by Richard Osman.

REVERSE ADVENT

An Advent calendar is a special calendar used to count the days in anticipation of Christmas Day. Since the date of the first Sunday of Advent varies, falling between Nov. 27 and Dec. 3, the Advent calendar usually begins on Dec 1. Usually there is a daily scripture reading and a piece of chocolate (or some other goodie) that one receives while counting down the days till Christmas.



A **Reverse Advent Calendar** is where you **give** something daily instead of receive something daily. It works like this: each day you place an item, such as a non-perishable food item, toilet paper, tooth paste, etc. into a box for the food pantry at Hammond First UMC. What they MOST need are canned soups, cereals, oatmeal, and canned meals. What they do NOT want is canned fish, canned vegetables and dried fruit. When you come to church on Christmas Eve you bring in your box. The boxes will be loaded up and taken to Hammond First to help stock their food pantry. We have done this for several years and it has been highly successful and very much appreciated. Thank you for your generosity!

RISK-TAKING MISSION AND SERVICE



December's mission is the Bishop's Christmas Offering and our Reverse Advent Food Drive. The Bishop's Christmas Offering for Children seeks to strengthen local ministries around the world by supporting them financially in their efforts to reach out to and improve the lives of young people. The Christmas Offering also provides funding to Indiana Conference Camping Ministries, three United Methodist-related children and youth homes, national and global Advance projects, and local outreach projects.

The January mission is Dr. Wshington's trip to Puerto Rico. Please see additional info on page 4.



GIVING TREE

The Woodmar tradition continues with a Giving Tree to serve those in need in the community. We work in conjunction with the Salvation Army as we have done for many years in the past. Please bring your unwrapped gifts in no later than **Dec. 8.**

Congregational Care Corps will be meeting the second Sunday of the month, right after church in the lounge, please join us with your ideas to plan some fun family events.



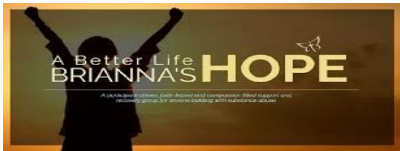
Our Caregivers will continue to meet at the Wheel at noon on the 3rd Tuesday each month. We welcome any additional people who would like to share, or just attend, and hear what others have to say. It is an hour of relaxation in Christian fellowship.

A Caregiver can be a grandparent raising grandchildren or someone caring for an ill relative or friend. It is important to learn to take time for yourself. Please feel free to join in.

WHAT'S UP, WOODMAR?



Sonrise Seniors, darts, pool, and Karate are again meeting in the church and are all extending an invitation to you to join in the fun!



Brianna's Hope meets on Wednesdays at 6PM. Each meeting starts with a light meal.

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| Contact information | Office email: office@woodmarumc.org Pastor's email: esta.rosario@inumc.org Web: www.woodmarumc.org Phone 219-844-3030 |
| Normal Sunday Schedule | Children's Sunday School-9AM Worship-10AM, Children's Church- |



Remember Scrip!

When you purchase Scrip cards through the church, you are donating to the church's current expenses! It does not cost you anything additional to purchase one. It is as simple to use as a credit card. There is a wide variety of cards that we can order for you and we have many on hand. Just ask Nancy Jarmula on Sunday morning. They are perfect for Christmas gifts! They are never the wrong size!! We can order almost any card you need!



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith will start our holiday season with a Christmas brunch at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, December 10th

in the church narthex. All church members and their guests are invited. Please join us for food, fellowship and fun! Attendees are encouraged to bring children's hats, mittens, scarves and gloves to donate to the Salvation Army.

The collection box for Phil's Friends is still in the narthex. Please continue to donate items which will be given to cancer patients.

Our UMW circles have combined. The only group, Mary's Circle, will meet during January and February via Zoom on the third Wednesday of the month at 2:00 p.m.

FINANCES



We ended October on a good note. We had income over expenses of \$6,576. The offering for October was higher than normal, which got us through the month without borrowing any additional funds! Expenses are running in line with our budget. With only two months left in the year, let's make them our best!

Happy Holidays to our Woodmar Family!

OCTOBER FINANCIALS

Income for budgeted expenses

| | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Donations | 21,251 |
| Rental income | 1,875 |
| Fundraisers | |
| Foundation | 2,120 |
| Scrip | (61) |
| Preschool-church exp | 1,765 |
| Preschool for custodian | 700 |
| Income for budgeted | 27,650 |

Year to date income to expense <4,571>

Budgeted expenses

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Program expenses | 191 |
| Building related | 7,498 |
| Office related | 1,423 |
| Staff expenses | 11,036 |
| Apportionments | 731 |
| Finance & Fees | 41 |
| Total Expenses | 20,919 |

October operating income to expenses +/- 6,577

Unbudgeted Income, Special Funds

| | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Missions | 120 |
| Special | 377 |
| Memorial Fund | |
| Property Maintenance | 385 |
| Capital Campaign | 750 |
| Altar Flowers /Communion | 58 |
| Other spec. donations | |
| Brianna's Hope/Rehab | 30 |
| <u>Interest income</u> | |
| Total | 1,720 |

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

News to share?
The deadline for the
Feb. Pylon
is January 19.

INFO FOR EVENING PRAYERS

Esta Rosario is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Evening Prayers

Time: Nov 16, 2022 08:00 PM Central Time
(US and Canada)

Every week on Wed, Mon, Tue, Thu, until Feb 2, 2023, 46 occurrence(s)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88561615296?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88561615296?pwd=ZkpwNWxMSGljbXdDUXRNcGc5TDExQT09)
pwd=ZkpwNWxMSGljbXdDUXRNcGc5TDE
xQT09

Meeting ID: 885 6161 5296
Passcode: 273023

Dial by your location
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
Meeting ID: 885 6161 5296
Passcode: 273023

