

**Readings for Sunday, July 16, 2017**  
**Woodbury United Methodist Church**

**A Reading from the Book of Genesis**

<sup>19</sup>This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Isaac. Abraham became the father of Isaac, <sup>20</sup>and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean. <sup>21</sup>Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. <sup>22</sup>The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. <sup>23</sup>The LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger." <sup>24</sup>When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. <sup>25</sup>The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. <sup>26</sup>After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them. <sup>27</sup>The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. <sup>28</sup>Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. <sup>29</sup>Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. <sup>30</sup>He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.) <sup>31</sup>Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." <sup>32</sup>"Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" <sup>33</sup>But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. <sup>34</sup>Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

**A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Romans**

<sup>8</sup> Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has

**Readings for Sunday, July 16, 2017**  
**Woodbury United Methodist Church**

set you free from the law of sin and death.<sup>3</sup>For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering.<sup>[c]</sup>And so he condemned sin in the flesh,<sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.<sup>5</sup>Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires.<sup>6</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace.<sup>7</sup>The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.<sup>8</sup>Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.<sup>9</sup>You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.<sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life<sup>[d]</sup> because of righteousness.<sup>11</sup>And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of<sup>[e]</sup> his Spirit who lives in you.

This is the word of God.   **Thanks be to God.**