

THE WOODRIDGE WORD

News from Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ

APRIL

2017

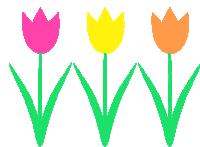
woodridgechurchri.org

From the pastor's desk

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.*

This hymn is the best known hymn in the world and a favorite choice for those in the nursing home where I work each week. It was written by John Newton, who was part of the revival of the Church of England in the late eighteenth century. He was a self-educated man, who had gone to sea and at one time had been the captain of a ship in the African slave trade. After his conversion, he became an ordained minister of the Church of England, finally serving as rector of a church in London. It could well be that this personal testimony referred to his time of blindness to the awful exploitation and forced transport of slaves. He saw himself as a spiritual wretch. Through an amazing grace his eyes were opened and he could see clearly God's will for his life and it was to get out of the slave trade.

In this Easter season, how might we receive God's grace and make changes in our spiritual lives so that we might be a better witness to the good news of the unconditional love of the resurrected Christ?



Lilies, tulips and daffodils may be ordered to decorate our church sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Order forms are available at the church and also attached or enclosed.

Orders need to be placed by April 2.

From the Associate Pastor of Music & Healing Ministry

You are invited to connect with each other and our community!

- **PrayerConnect** –Do you need spiritual support or a reflective moment? Perhaps just some daily words of encouragement? You can receive this daily reflection...And it can come to you privately in your email-of-choice each day, Monday through Friday. Why not sign up and see what can come? If not, you can catch the three weekly editions on Facebook at this address:
<https://www.facebook.com/woodridgePrayerconnect>
- **The Music Ministry** *Thursday rehearsals continue...Chimes 6:30 pm...Choir 7:30 pm. I hope you will join one of these groups. **We need you!!***
 - a. **Special note - Holy Week Rehearsals** – Tuesday, April 11 (no rehearsal Thurs, April 13 due to Maundy Thursday):
 - i. **Advanced Chimers – 6:30 pm (tentative)**
 - ii. **Hallelujah Chorus – 7:00 pm**
 - iii. **Instrument Group – 7:30 pm**
 - iv. **Choir Group – 8:00 pm**
- **‘Prime Time’ Chimes group** – rehearsals Sundays, right after worship in our sanctuary!
- **Do you play an instrument?** We are looking to build up the “band”. How about you?
- **Hallelujah Chorus** – Can you believe we are about to have our 6th annual gathering of singers for Handel’s famous masterpiece from his work, *Messiah*? Come find out what we can do when we band together ... with **rehearsals from 7:00 to 8:00 pm:**
Tuesday – March 28
Tuesday – April 4
Tuesday – April 11
No singing experience needed...just a willingness to devote 3 hours of rehearsal and come Easter Sunday! We hope to see you in the music room!

Encouraging everyone to help us build our faith community at Woodridge!

With you on the journey,

Rev. Bob

Email: nolan062400@gmail.com

(note new email address)

Phone: (401) 339-6134

Holy Week at Woodridge

Palm Sunday (April 9) – This year we will remember Jesus entering Jerusalem in His final week through a first-ever Sunday school “Easter Pageant.” Our children and youth will help tell the story of Palm Sunday and the service will also include: music and prayers and a time with children.

Maundy Thursday (April 13) – 7 pm in the sanctuary – This is always a very special worship experience in our Holy Week schedule as we remember Jesus’ last supper with His disciples through a celebration of communion; hand washing; music and prayers; a brief message; and readings about Jesus’ last night and crucifixion. This service is appropriate for all ages, including school age kids with a day off from school the next day.

Good Friday (April 14) – Two ecumenical worship experiences & time for devotion in the Woodridge sanctuary **(9 am - 6 pm)**

Noon & 7 pm: Worship with our brothers and sisters at St David’s on the Hill (200 Meshanticut Valley Pkwy, Cranston)

Easter (April 16) – Two services

6 am: Annual sunrise service – brief service outside the front doors of the Woodridge church sanctuary (inside if the weather is bad) – hot breakfast to follow

10 am: readings; prayers; special music; Easter message; a time with children; and the Hallelujah choir

Following Easter in April worship ...

April 23: Annual pastor’s baseball sermon with a singing of “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” – don’t forget to wear your baseball gear!

April 30: Sharing by youth and adults from the April mission trip to Philadelphia

Woodridge at work . . . in Mission and Service

Lenten Collection

During Lent you've been invited to contribute to a special collection to benefit the Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center. Items being received through April 17 include:

Cleaning supplies and household items: disposable mops; paper towels; toilet paper; sponges; table napkins; tall kitchen trash bags; Swiffer jet fluid; Murphy's oil soap; laundry detergent; toilet bowl brushes; plungers; brooms; umbrellas; disinfecting wipes

Toiletries: deodorant; lotion; toothpaste; soap

Collection boxes are located outside the sanctuary and in the fellowship hall.

The Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center serves individuals and families affected by domestic violence and sexual assault. It provides law enforcement advocacy; court advocacy; counseling and support; prevention and education; and professional training services.

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Volunteers are always appreciated at the **Interfaith Food Ministry's** pantry, where folks from Woodridge help out on the **second Saturday** morning of each month. Contact Paula Duffy or any member of the Service Committee if you're interested.

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Youth group news ...

- April 18 - 25 – Philadelphia mission trip
- Other events and meetings to be announced!

Woodridge Welcomes you to our

35th Annual (Almost) May Gourmet Breakfast

Saturday, April 29th - 8:00 - 11:00 AM

*Menu: Eggs, Frittatas, Johnny Cakes, Waffles, Ham, Sausage,
Corned Beef Hash, Home Fries,
Homemade Baked Beans, Homemade Strudel and Muffins,
Assorted Pastries, coffee, tea, juice and milk.*

Tickets: Adults \$9 Children (3-10) \$5

Help make this event another great success:

*Volunteers are needed . . .
to bake, prepare food, serve, set up and clean up.*

Sign-up sheets are available in church and attached or enclosed.

Tickets are on sale now.

See Deb Scipione for both.

* * *

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who supported our Irish/Italian Night.

***Whether you baked, dined, sold tickets, donated funds, helped with set -
up or clean up, or worked a station, we could not have done it without
you!***

Our Net Profit is \$1788.43.

Once again, Thank you.

Deborah Scipione, Chair Membership & Fellowship

Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of the church through pledges and offerings. Keeping your support up-to-date even when circumstances keep you away from church on Sunday is very much appreciated.

If you would like a box of weekly offering envelopes, please contact the church office or our financial secretary, Pat Fortier.

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Deadline for our next (May) issue – April 21; to be mailed/emailed the end of April.

Visit our website for the year-to-date financial report, latest board meeting minutes, birthdays & anniversaries and the prayer list:

www.woodridgechurchri.org

For the latest news, to be added to their email list, and most anything else about the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ, visit their website:

www.ricucc.org

Woodridge Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

A Caring and Welcoming Community

 Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/woodridgecongregational

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