

# THE WOODRIDGE WORD

News from Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ

MARCH

2017

woodridgechurchri.org

## ***From the pastor's desk***

The scientific theory known as “evolution” is primarily about how different kinds of living organisms, including humanity, are thought to have developed and diversified from earlier forms during the history of the earth. Charles Darwin was the chief founder of this theory. Another theory that originated from Darwin’s evolutionary theory was the “survival of the fittest.” It was developed by Herbert Spencer (no relation). That is, evolution depends on natural selection, which refers to the process over time in which only the strongest people or species continue to live or be successful while others who are weaker die off. I always thought that there is a kind of an individual “dog eat dog” nature to this process. In other words, “every man and woman for themselves.” Recently I read that many scientists today believe just the opposite. New understandings point to individual survival being most successful within community and in dependence on others.

*I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4: 1 - 6*

**Daylight Saving Time begins  
Sunday, March 12**



**remember to “Spring ahead”**

## *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 words of encouragement? There is a growing list of people from within and outside of our community receiving this daily reflection...And it comes right to your email every day, Monday through Friday. Why not sign up and see what can come? If not, you can catch the Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 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!!*
- **'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 6<sup>th</sup> annual gathering of singers for Handel’s famous masterpiece from his work, *Messiah*? Come find out what we can do when we ban together....we will have 3 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!

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

With you on the journey,

Rev. Bob

Email: [nolan1213@verizon.net](mailto:nolan1213@verizon.net)

Phone: (401) 339-6134

# March worship – Lent begins

*Theme for Lent: Healing*

**March 1: Ash Wednesday worship service at 7 pm.**

**March 5: First Sunday in Lent** with the Sacrament of Communion

**Each Sunday in March** - *after-church scripture feedback* with pastor Bob in the pastor's office from 11:30 - 12:15. This will be an informal time to reflect on the morning's gospel reading.

*Looking ahead to April*

**April 9: Passion / Palm Sunday worship at 10 am – including an “Easter Pageant”**

**April 16: Easter worship at 6 am and 10 am**

## Youth group news ...

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

***Plan to attend . . . and invite friends and neighbors***

***Irish & Italian Dinner***

***Saturday, March 11, 2017***

***2 Seatings: 4:30 - 6:00 & 6:30 - 8:00***

***Tickets: Adults \$12 Children (ages 3-12) \$5***

***Reservations will be required:***

***See Deb Scipione or contact the church office: 942-0662***

***or email [woodridgechurch@verizon.net](mailto:woodridgechurch@verizon.net)***

## **Woodridge at work . . . in Mission and Service**

### Lenten Collection

**During Lent – now through April 17 – Woodridge invites you to contribute to a special collection to benefit the Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center – *Serving individuals and families affected by domestic violence and sexual assault.***

**Items being collected:**

**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 provides law enforcement advocacy; court advocacy; counseling and support; prevention and education; and professional training services.*

\* \* \*

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.

\* \* \*

***Sponsor a youth to go on this year's mission trip ...***

This coming April, the youth group will be going on our 6<sup>th</sup> mission trip. This year, we will be returning to Philadelphia for 5 days to work on service projects, such as serving meals for the homeless, sorting food for food pantries, doing neighborhood cleanups, and overall being a witness to God's love to all we meet and serve. We will be staying at a UCC church in downtown Philadelphia where we will eat our meals together and do our daily devotions. The cost for each participant is \$125, which covers all expenses, including lodging, food, and transportation. Each person going is responsible for some of the cost, but we are asking for your additional support. **If you are able to sponsor a youth to go on this year's trip, please see Rev Spencer or send a check to the office (made payable to Woodridge Congregational Church). We are requesting sponsors of \$100 or \$50.**

***Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of the church through pledges and offerings. Keeping your support up-to-date even when bad weather or other 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.***

## SAVE THE DATE!

***Saturday, **April 29** is Woodridge's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Almost May Breakfast.  
8 - 11 AM***

***All the usual scrumptious buffet menu items & all you can eat!***

***Tickets in advance or at the door. See Deb Scipione.***



### ***Winter weather advisory:***

If bad weather suggests that worship may be cancelled on a Sunday morning, look for an announcement on local TV stations or broadcasters' websites, along with other cancellations, by 7 am.

However, even if worship is not cancelled, please use your own good judgment and only attend if you feel you can do so safely.

Also, someone will be in the church office by 8:30 am on Sunday morning if you feel you need to call for further information.

*Deadline for our next (April) issue – March 21;*

*to be mailed/emailed the end of March.*

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

[www.woodridgechurchri.org](http://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](http://www.ricucc.org)

## Woodridge Congregational Church

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

*A Caring and Welcoming Community*



Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/woodridgecongregational](http://www.facebook.com/woodridgecongregational)

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