

***From the pastor's desk ... Lent 2018***

Lent is the historic period of 40 days of deep preparation leading to Good Friday and Easter. The 40 days follow the 40 days that Jesus also spent in deep preparation before He began His 3 - year ministry.

Traditionally, some have given "things up" for Lent while others have taken "things up." My brother used to give up coffee and the sports page for Lent. Others I know have added a new "spiritual discipline" during this time period. Whatever you do, it is a time where we more keenly focus our lives on the One who "lived and died for us" on Good Friday and who brings the "hope of the resurrection" on Easter morning.

During Lent, we are focusing on the theme of "God's love and forgiveness" and seeking ways in worship to explore this theme by asking questions about forgiveness and seeking answers from Scripture. My hope is that Sunday morning worship will encourage "everyday Christian discipleship" as we all live out the call to follow Jesus not only during Lent but everyday and every year.



If you would like to order lily, tulip or daffodil plants to decorate our church sanctuary on Easter Sunday, please use the attached or enclosed order form. Orders need to be received no later than March 18 and your plant(s) may be taken home following the April 1 service.

Daylight Saving Time begins  
Sunday, March 11



remember to "*Spring ahead*"

## ***Preaching & Worship for the March Sundays in Lent:***

**March 4:** communion; Feeling a brokenness in our lives – Jesus’ healing words of institution at communion

1 Corinthians 11: 23 – 26

**Have you ever felt you are unable to forgive yourself?**

**March 11:** Dealing with addiction in our lives – a Psalm about putting our trust and faith in God “as a shelter in the day of trouble”

Psalm 27: 4 – 6

**Have you ever struggled with addiction?**

**March 18:** God’s Grace – The story of the lost sheep - Our loving God never gives up on us

Luke 15: 1 – 7

**What is God’s grace?**

## ***Looking ahead to Holy Week ...***

March 25: Palm Sunday 10 am service with the Easter Pageant

March 29: Maundy Thursday @ 7 pm - communion & hand washing

March 30: Good Friday

April 1: Easter @ 6 am (sunrise service) and 10 am

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## *From the Associate Pastor of Music & Healing Ministry*

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

### **Healing Ministry**

- **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? You can catch the three weekly editions on Facebook at this address: <https://www.facebook.com/woodridgePrayerconnect>

### **Music Ministry**

- **Choir & Chimes .... Thursday rehearsals ...Chimes 6:30 pm in the sanctuary...Choir 7:30 pm in the music room. *We need more to join!***
- **‘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 – we will be meeting for our 6<sup>th</sup> annual gathering to sing Handel’s famous “Hallelujah Chorus”**

- **When? Rehearsals – 3 Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8 pm – March 13, 20, & 27**
- **Where? Our sanctuary**
- **And then...sing this beautiful piece on April 1, at the end of our Easter Sunday celebration!!**

**We need you...all of you!!!**

**Please continue to pray for all our ministries, that they will grow and expand into many places, guided by the Spirit. Amen!**

With you on the journey,

Rev. Bob

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# Christian Education & Youth News

## *Upcoming Events! Mark Your Calendar*

**March 18 - Sun. Jr. Youth Group Monster Mini-Golf.**

**March 18 - Sun. Confirmation retreat with adult mentors.**

**March 24 - Sat. Easter Pageant Practice & Dance Party,**

3pm practice, 4:30pm potluck & dance party.

**March 25 - Sun. Easter Pageant,** during 10am Palm Sunday service.

**April 8 - Sun. First Communion Celebration**

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## **Easter Pageant Practice & Dance Party**

We will need volunteers to help set up the pot luck dinner while the students are rehearsing. Please see Heather Ashworth for more information.

**Where:** Woodridge Congregational Church Sanctuary

**When:** March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Time:** 3pm Pageant Practice 4:30pm Potluck Dinner and Dance party

**Easter Pageant will be performed on Palm Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> during the 10 am service.**



*Plan to attend and bring or invite family, friends & neighbors:*

# *Irish & Italian Dinner*

***Saturday, March 10, 2018***

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

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

***Reservations are required  
and need to be made by Tuesday, March 6***

***See Courtney Lombardi or contact the church office: 942-0662  
or email [woodridgechurch@verizon.net](mailto:woodridgechurch@verizon.net)***

Volunteers are needed for: Prep Cooking, Baking, Set-up & Clean-up

This is a very busy function; even if you can only give one hour of your time, please see Deb Scipione or Courtney Lombardi.

Help is needed for Thursday March 8 at 6:30 to move tables.

Help is needed for Friday March 9 at 6 PM to finish setting up and decorate.

All volunteers must be at their work stations 30 minutes prior to each seating.

All baked goods must be at church by Saturday March 10 at 9 AM.

All volunteers must park in the front church parking lot or very back parking lot; *please DO NOT PARK ON JACKSON ROAD.*



## ***Service Committee update***

Members of Woodridge Church volunteered at the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday 2/10/18. This month was very busy at the food pantry.

- Families: 72
- Adults: 132
- Adults over 65: 16
- Children: 147
- New to Food Pantry: 7

Our next food pantry Saturday is March 10<sup>th</sup>.

We have also started our Lenten Collection for the [Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center](#)

- Collection Boxes are set up in Narthex and Fellowship Hall
- Requested Items include: disinfecting wipes, disposable mops, sponges, paper towels, toilet paper, table napkins, trash bags, Murphy's oil soap and laundry detergent
- Items may be donated now through April 8<sup>th</sup>

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***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.***

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***Save the date – our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual (Almost) May Breakfast will be Saturday, April 28***

*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](https://www.facebook.com/woodridgecongregational)

THE WOODRIDGE WORD ~ March 2018

Published by: Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ  
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

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

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