

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

*An Open & Affirming Congregation and
A Caring & Welcoming Community*

Worship at 10:00 AM

September 8, 2024

woodridgechurchri.org

facebook.com/woodridgecongregational

As a caring and welcoming community, using the Bible as a resource and the teachings of Jesus as our guide, we joyfully welcome everyone into our Christian community, regardless of race, ethnicity, class, age, mental status, family structure, physical or mental ability, religious background or theological perspective, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. As Christian disciples, we invite all to share in the life, leadership, ministry, worship, sacraments, blessings and joys of our congregation.

Gathering Music

The Swan from "The Carnival of Animals"

Camille Saint-Saens
Arranged by Henry Levine

What's happening at Woodridge?

Call To Worship

One: Place your trust in God.

All: God's faithfulness is unshakeable.

One: May our worship this day strengthen our faith.

All: May our faithfulness be unshakeable.

One: May our words and actions be good and true.

All: May we grow in godliness each and every day.

Opening Prayer (unison)

We place our trust in you, O God, for your love and faithfulness are steadfast and true. Breathe your Holy Spirit into our worship and your very presence into our lives, that our love and faithfulness would be a reflection of yours. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Creator God, you create all people in your image. When we neglect the needs of the poor, raise our commitment to care for others and to help create justice for all. When favoritism and prejudice blind us, and when we exclude and demean others, focus us on your inclusive love, a love that welcomes us and calls us to welcome others. Live in us and through us, that our lives and our actions may reflect your image in all that we say and in all that we do. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

One: God is good

All: all the time.

One: And all the time,

All: God is good.

One: In God's goodness, we touch goodness.

All: In God's love, we receive love.

One: In God's grace and mercy,

All: we find fellowship with God's people. Amen.

*Hymn

All Things Bright and Beautiful

NCH #31

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 125 (NRSV)

¹Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. ²As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people, from this time on and forevermore. ³For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, so that the righteous might not stretch out their hands to do wrong. ⁴Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts. ⁵But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways the Lord will lead away with evildoers. Peace be upon Israel!

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Scripture:

Mark 7: 24-37 (NRSV)

²⁴From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, ²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. ²⁶Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷He said to her, "Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." ²⁸But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's

crumbs.”²⁹ Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.”³⁰ So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.³¹ Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.³² They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.³³ He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.³⁴ Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”³⁵ And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.³⁶ Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.³⁷ They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

Sermon:

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn

For Everyone Born
A Place at the Table

L. True

For ev - 'ry one born, a place at the ta - ble for ev - 'ry one
 young and for old, a place at the ta - ble a voice to be—
 ev - 'ry - one born, a place at the ta - ble, to live with-out

6
 born, clean wa - ter and bread, — a shel - ter, a space, a safe place for
 heard, a part in the song, — the hands of a child, in hands that are
 fear, and sim - ply to be, — to work, to speak out, to wit - ness and

13
 grow - ing, for ev - 'ry one born, a star o - ver - head. — And God
 wrin - kled, for young and for — old, the right to be - long. — And God
 wor - ship, for ev - 'ry one born, the right to be free. — And God

20
 will de - light — when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and joy, — yes
 will de - light — when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and joy, — yes
 will de - light — when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and joy, — yes

28
 God will de - light — when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, —
 God will de - light — when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, —
 God will de - light — when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, —

36
 jus - tice and joy! — — — For
 jus - tice and joy! — — — For
 jus - tice and joy! — — — For

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Offertory

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Charles C. Converse

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

Through these gifts and offerings, bless your world, O God. Through our lives and our actions, bring love to your creation, that all may know your presence and live in your grace. Amen.

Hymn of Preparation:

Let Us Break Bread Together

Pilgrim #288

Holy Communion

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Our communion table is open to all who wish to receive, regardless of church membership or affiliation. We welcome all ages to receive communion. We are now offering bread and juice separately or both contained in the combined cup; please take either bread or the combined cup when it is served.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Consecration

Bread and Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Hymn

Help Us Accept Each Other from The Church's One Foundation

Fred Kaan

Samuel Ward



The musical score is written on a single treble clef staff in 4/4 time, with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of four lines of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The first line of music includes a repeat sign. The lyrics are: 'Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us, O God, your lessons as in our daily life, your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love, To need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, Bring us. Teach us as sister brother each other to embrace. Be life, we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach moved in living situations to do the truth in love, To need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, Bring pre - sent God, a - mong us, and bring us to be - lieve, we us to care for peo - ple, for all not just for some, to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance, un - til we know by heart the us new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on, re - are our - selves ac - cept - ed and meant to live and love. Teach love them as we find them, or as they may be - come. Let ta - ble of for - give - ness and laugh - ter's heal - ing art. God new us with your Spir - it, God! Free us, make us one!'

Benediction

Benediction Response

God Be With You

NCH #81

Postlude

Great is the Lord

Music Michael Smith
and Deborah D. Smith

Prayer Requests

You are invited to share prayer concerns or celebrations during that time in this morning's service. The pastor will pass a microphone to those who raise a hand to speak. Please contact the church office with concern updates as necessary.

Helen Nisbet – Carol Kinoian's Mom, prayers requested as she is in Hospice.

Ray Perrotta - Continued recovery.

Dianne Dugan – Had her surgery. She is at home and recovering.

Charlene & Dave Barrette - Prayers for daily struggles and his Cancer treatment.

Janelle Slepski - Prayers for continued recovery.

Lorna (friend of Barbara Stifano) – Prayers as she was diagnosed with Cancer and is waiting for her treatment plan.

Keep in touch and stay informed . . .

We send a Thursday email with general information. Please contact the office if you would like to be added to our mailing list. Recorded Sunday services may also be found on our YouTube channel and through our website.

Announcements

Welcome Pastor Aidan

Message from Pastor Tom:

Dear Woodridge Family,

My heartfelt thanks to everyone for the wonderful "Foodridge" pot luck lunch last Sunday after my last service. The food was excellent! Everything was perfect and I know a lot of work went into planning that reception. Please know that my time as your bridge pastor will always have a special place in my heart. I do hope that I will be able to visit and worship with you sometime in the future.

God's continued blessing,

Pastor Tom

There will be a Holiday Market meeting today after Church. All are welcome to attend, we are always looking for new ideas and new helpers! We will be discussing signup sheets, baked goods list and outdoor signage. We may also need to revisit ticket prices and how to manage a 50/50 raffle where people who buy tickets may leave before the winner is drawn. We want to keep that simple!

If you have already purchased wine or a gift card for the Mystery Bags, please bring them in - we will store them, so you don't have to! I know I routinely have the problem of 'Why is this here?' and its corollary of 'Now where did I put that?!' Let us help you with that!

Correction Beverage on the Terrace will be extended through the end of September. The 22nd and 29th have been added to the signup sheet. October 6, 2024 will be when we go back to “Coffee” and cookies, fruit, crackers and cheese, cupcakes, cakes, juice and whatever item one decides to bring to Fellowship Hall.

Music at Woodridge

Woodridge Choir will start up Thursday, September 12 at 7 pm in the sanctuary,

Woodridge Chimes will start up Thursday, September 19 at 6:30 with **choir** following at 7:15 Contact Eric at ewvandervort1@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Prime Time Chimers resume rehearsals on September 22, 2024 after worship. Anyone interested in joining the Prime Time Chimers should contact Bob Quintiliani at 996-1272 or trekker1@verizon.net. Lots of fun to be had, and no musical experience necessary!

Thank you for your continuing donations of non-perishable food items to the Interfaith Food Pantry – in the narthex basket or the box outside the Jackson Road office entrance.

The Grief Support Group Meets Thursday afternoons, 2:00 - 3:30 pm in the Conference Room of the church. Access is via the Jackson Road entrance.

This gathering is for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. For more information, please contact the facilitator, Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose at bbagbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org

Looking Ahead to Rally Day which will be September 15, 2024 when we say farewell to summer. This is when we return to our normal schedules, back to school, back to work, and back to church. This year we start anew with our new Pastor, Aidan Kelley and look forward to all he will bring to his new church family. Let us all open our minds and hearts to this new and exciting journey we are about to embark on together. Please bring your backpacks to worship next Sunday for a special blessing.

We are still looking for people to help with the Livestream Team! If you are interested in sitting in the balcony during worship once a month and would like to learn how to operate the camera and computer and generate our livestream of the worship service, please contact Bob Ryan (bobbyryan@verizon.net or see church) or Jay Bombardier (firebombjr@gmail.com or see him at church). Thank you very much!

The Date is set for the Woodridge-Fred Malcolm Golf Outing Fund Raiser. It will be October 6, 2024, 12:30PM start time. Midville Golf Club, West Warwick RI. **ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS ARE WELCOME** The fee for this event is \$75.00 per person payable in advance to Woodridge UCC. **Please indicate “Golf Outing on the memo line.** Please send checks to the Church office: 30 Jackson Road Cranston, RI 02920 % Barbara Stifano by 09/29/24. Funds from this event go to Woodridge Church and the Leukemia Research Foundation. Call or email the office with questions, 401-942-0662 or woodridgechurch@verizon.net.

The enclosed envelope may be used to make a gift to the **Deacon’s Fund**, assisting Woodridge family and community members with emergency needs.

Thank you.

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Martha Ryan

Ushers: Nancy Quintiliani, Martha Ryan,
Lori-Jo Wahl, Lenny Wahl

Stewards: Gale MacDonald, Dianne Cavanaugh,
Eileen Phaneuf, Carol Kinoian

The flowers this Sunday are in honor of Rev Aidan Kelley
and to celebrate the beginning of a new relationship between
himself and the Woodridge community.
Welcome Pastor Aidan!

Communion Preparation
Nancy Quintiliani and Martha Ryan

Beverage on the Terrace is supplied by
Deb Therrien, Nancy Quintiliani,
Courtney Lombardi, Barbara Stifano

Our Staff

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Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister
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