

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

September 15, 2024

woodridgechurchri.org

facebook.com/woodridgecongregational



Gathering

What's happening at Woodridge?

Call to Worship

One: The heavens are telling the glory of God and creation proclaims
God's handiwork

**All: Day pours forth speech and night declares knowledge of
our God.**

One: God's wisdom is written in the stars.

All: It is seen and heard to the ends of the earth.

One: When we see God's teachings in the clouds or hear them in
birdsong,

**All: our minds are enriched, our eyes are enlightened, our souls
are revived, and our hearts rejoice.**

One: Then we shall bless God's name with our words,

All: and with the silence between them.

Opening Prayer

Gracious and holy God, give us diligence to seek you, wisdom to perceive you, and patience to wait for you. Grant us, O God, a mind to meditate on you, eyes to behold you, ears to listen for your Word, a heart to love you, and a life to proclaim you, through the power of the spirit of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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.

** All who are able, please stand*

*Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

NCH #436

Scripture:

Isaiah 50: 4-9a(NRSV)

⁴The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. ⁷The Lord God helps me; therefore, I have not been disgraced; therefore, I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; ⁸he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. ⁹It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Children's message/Blessing of the Backpacks

*Hymn

Go, My Children with My Blessing
(verse 1)

see page 9

Passing of the Peace

Scripture:

James 3: 1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you

know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Sermon

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn

The Gift of Love

see page 9

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations – Pastoral Prayer

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

All Are Welcome

Page 10

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)

For your holy Word, O God, we give you thanks. For your enduring Wisdom, O God, we give you praise. For your call to speak truth, O God, we give you glory. Grant us the courage to share your gifts, this day and all days. Amen.

*Hymn In the Midst of New Dimensions (verses 1-3) NCH #391

Benediction

Benediction Response God Be With You NCH #81

Postlude

Announcements

COVID Advisory Although many symptoms are mild, COVID cases are rising. If you have symptoms or don't feel well, please stay home and join in Sunday worship via our live-stream. If you attend in person and would feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so. We try to have masks available for anyone who would like one. And we continue to encourage all who are eligible, and in consultation with their healthcare provider, to get appropriate vaccines. Please stay safe!

Beverage on the Terrace is extended through the end of September. The 22nd and 29th are still open if you want to volunteer to supply beverage and treats for those dates. 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!

Prayer Requests

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

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 him at 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.

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.

Lou Giarouseau- Prayers for his daughter Patricia as Lou did pass away on September 9, 2024

Barbara Cole - (Lori-Jo Wahl’s Mom) Prayers for both. Her Mom did have a stroke and Lori-Jo is going to VA to take care of her Mom as she is home.

Michael Wahl - Lori Jo and Lenny’s son who went to the hospital with stomach pain was released and has follow up with primary.

Helen Nisbet – Carol Kionoian’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 will be having surgery next week.

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.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

traditional Welsh melody

Go my child-ren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a-lone, walk-ing sleep-ing,
 I am with you, you are my own. In my love's bap - tis-mal riv - er
 I have made you mine for-ev-er, go, my child-ren, with my bless-ing you are my own.

The Gift of Love

traditional English melody

Though I may speak with brave - est fire, and have the
 Though I my give all I pos - sess, and striv - ing
 Come, Spir - it come, our hearts con - trol, our spir - its
 gift to all in - spire, and have not love, my words are -
 so my love pro - fess, but not be given by love with -
 long to be made whole. Let in - ward love guide ev - ery
 vain, as sound - ing brass, and hope - less - gain.
 in, the prof - it soon, and turns strange - ly thin.
 deed, by this we wor - ship and are freed.

All Are Welcome

Marty Haugen

Choir on Verses 1 and 2 with congregation on refrain
 All Gathered on verse 3

Verse 1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 Verse 2 build a house where love is found in wa - ter wine and
 Verse 3 build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions

live. A place where saints and chil - dren tell how hearts learnt to for -
 wheat. A ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground, where peace and jus - tice
 heard And loved and treas - ured taught and claimed as words with - in the

give. Built of hopes and dreams and vis - sions, rock of faith and vault of
 meet. Here the love of God through Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and
 Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter prayers of faith and songs of

Refrain - all gathered
 grace. Here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions, All are wel - come,
 space. As we share in Christ the feast that frees us, All are wel - come,
 grace. Let this house pro - claim from floor to raf - ter, All are wel - come,

All are wel - come, All - are wel - come in this place. Let us
 All are wel - come, All are wel - come in this place.
 All are wel - come, All are wel - come in this place.

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Lily Dillon

Ushers: Carmen Steinbrecher, Sharon Albert,
Les Steinbrecher, Rebecca Rotondo

Stewards: Courtney Lombardi, Carmen Steinbrecher,
Les Steinbrecher, Rebecca Rotondo

The flowers this Sunday are given by the Worship Team
in celebration of Rally Day and our new Pastor, Aidan Kelley.

Beverage on the Terrace today is provided by
Nancy & Bob Quintiliani

Our Staff:

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley, Pastor
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Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister
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