

From the pastor's desk ... Lenten journey continues

... They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

Hebrews 11: 13b, 14

During Lent we have been guided by the traditional symbol of Christian pilgrimage in the scallop shell. Our pilgrimage has been for the season of Lent as we have explored challenges about temptation, judgement, hardness of heart, and rejection. In this monthly communication from the church, please carefully read the various opportunities for worship, service, and fellowship, including our schedule for Holy Week. May God bless you on your pilgrimage of faith.

Pastor Scott

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Lenten Sermon Series: “Stones to the Bread of Life” concludes

Overview: A pilgrimage journey often includes overcoming “challenges” in life. But it is the “Bread of Life” (Jesus) who helps us overcome those challenges.

March 31: “Rejected Stones” – the challenge of “rejection”

April 7: “The Stone to Stand on” – the foundation to weather the “challenges of life”
Communion Service to celebrate the “Bread of Life” -- Jesus Christ

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**Art
for Lent**

During Lent, we have been featuring the artwork of the Rev. Bill Comeau in the sanctuary, for ongoing reflection and devotion.

Holy Week at Woodridge . . . *April 14 - 21*

- a week to prepare for the hope of the resurrection

Palm Sunday (April 14) @ 10 am:

We start Holy Week with a children and youth led Palm Sunday processional as we celebrate Jesus triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Full Sunday school to follow the passing of the peace - fellowship & refreshments to follow.

Maundy or Holy Thursday (April 18) @ 7 pm:

Our Holy Week preparation will continue as we celebrate the Last Supper with communion; washing of hands; and a reading of Jesus arrest, trial and crucifixion.

Good Friday (April 19): 9 - 6 pm:

Our sanctuary will be open for private reflection and devotion - including an opportunity to reflect on our Lent/ Holy Week art exhibit.

Easter (April 21) @ 6 and 10 am:

Our Easter celebration will begin at 6 am with a brief service outside the sanctuary and a hot breakfast to follow in fellowship hall. Our 10 am service will be full of special music, including the Hallelujah chorus, a time with children, and an Easter message.

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Lenten Mission Project – *continuing through Sunday, April 28*

As our congregation prepares for Easter Sunday, we traditionally ask our community to participate in a Lenten mission project. This year we are collecting diapers, underwear and socks --all sizes-- for foster care children. Families who provide temporary or long-term homes for foster children often struggle to meet the cost of providing these items because they are not provided nor do families get fully reimbursed for them. Our collection will relieve some of the burden on these families and help them continue to provide for the children who need it most. Collection boxes are located outside of the sanctuary and in fellowship hall.

From the Associate Pastor of Music & Healing Ministry

Greetings, Friends!

Healing Ministry

- **PrayerConnect** – With the dawning of Easter, perhaps you might consider a Jesus' resurrection as a springboard to a daily reflection, filled with unconditional love and support.

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 email me (Rev Bob) at the address below or...
- You can catch the three weekly editions on Facebook at this address:
<https://www.facebook.com/woodridgePrayerconnect>

Music Ministry

- **Choir & Chimes Thursday rehearsals are back! ...Chimes 6:30 pm in the sanctuary...Choir 7:30 pm in the music room. *Will you try us out ... please? No prior experience ... just bring your spirit, as we'll help with the rest!***
- **'Prime Time' Chimes group** – rehearsals on Sundays, right after worship in our sanctuary until June 3rd! It's a good place to explore our music ministry!! See Bob Quintiliani for more information!!
- **Do you play an instrument?** We are always looking to build up the "band". *How about you?*
- **Hallelujah Chorus!!**

Our annual gathering is on! We will rehearse on three Tuesdays - April 2, 9, & 16 at 7 pm in the Sanctuary. This is our 10th Annual gathering!!

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

Email: nolan062400@gmail.com

Mobile Phone / Text: (401) 339-6134

Spring is here! Invite a friend or neighbor to this year's

37th Annual Almost May Gourmet Breakfast

Saturday April 27th 8-11 AM

Menu: Eggs, Frittatas, Johnny Cakes, Waffles, Ham, Sausage, Home Fries, Holly's Baked Beans, Strudel, Muffins & Assorted Pastries, Coffee, Tea, Juice & Milk

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

All you can eat!

And to make it all happen . . .

Volunteers are needed for: Prep Cooking on Friday, Baked Goods, Set-up and Clean up, Serving, Dishwashing, Bussing tables.

Sign up sheets are in Narthex or return insert to Courtney Lombardi or Deb Scipione.

Please put April 13 on your calendar. We will be washing chairs and will need your help to get ready for the Breakfast.

- Thursday April 25 - we need help moving tables at 6 PM
- Friday April 26 - finish setting up and decorations at 6 PM

All volunteers must be at their work stations when scheduled.

All baked goods should be at church on Friday April 26 or by 7 am Saturday April 27

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

Christian Education & Youth News . . .

Upcoming Youth Events!

Sunday, March 31:

"Monster Mini-Golf, Monstrous Faith," Junior Youth Group, grades 3 thru 7.

Monday, April 15 - Wednesday, April 17:

2019 Mission Trip to Worcester, Senior Youth Group, grades 7 thru 12.

Saturday, April 20:

Community Easter Egg Hunt, 2-4 pm

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The Paw Sox first game at McCoy is Thursday, April 11, and ...



On August 3 Woodridge will once again be attending the Paw Sox!

It will be Super Hero night with fireworks.

Watch for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex

or contact Courtney Lombardi if you would like to attend!

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Service Ministry Teamwork

Members of the Service ministry team volunteered at the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, March 9th. Thank you for your faithful commitment of contributions of non-perishable food items. Donations can be placed in the box in the narthex.

Woodridge splits the food donations between the Interfaith Food Pantry and CCAP.

Our next Saturday for the food pantry is April 13th.

If you are interested in volunteering at the pantry (95 Hathaway St, off Elmwood Ave) or another service activity, contact Bob Cole or any Service ministry team member.

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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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Our next issue will be May; to be mailed/emailed late April, probably sent via Constant Contact. It will look better and may include pictures and other illustrations. If you have any questions, feedback, a new email address or would prefer to be taken off the mailing list, please let us know.

Visit our website for the year-to-date financial report, and more:

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



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