

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

Worship at 10:00 AM

woodridgechurchri.org

April 21, 2024

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 Old Rugged

by Rev. George Bennard
Arranged by Youngmin You
Sandy Nolan, organist

What's happening at Woodridge? *(see the bulletin inserts)*

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Holy One, we give you thanks that you sent Jesus to guide us in your way of truth and life. Help us to listen to his voice and follow him faithfully. Teach us to show welcome to the other members of the flock you draw into your fold. Show us how to devote our lives to the service of the gospel; we pray this in Jesus name saying...

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.

Call to Worship:

Leader: We all like sheep have gone astray.

People: Let us worship God.

Leader: May the Good Shepherd gather us into his flock once again.

People: Let us worship God.

Leader: Come let us worship and bow down,

People: Let us worship God.

Leader: Let us kneel before the Lord, our God, our Maker.

People: Let us worship God.

Leader: For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture.

All: We are the sheep of His hand. Let us worship God.

*Hymn

Rejoice, the Lord Is King

Pilgrim #204

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 23 KJV

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Sermon Text:

1 John 3:16-24 (NRSV)

¹⁶We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. ¹⁷How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? ¹⁸Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. ¹⁹And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him

²⁰whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. ²¹Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; ²²and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

²³And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

Sermon:

“Love In Action”

Rev. Tom Meyer

*Hymn:

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Pilgrim #327

Prayer concerns and celebrations

Anthem

Shelter Me
based upon Psalm 23

Michael Joncas
Nancy Quintiliani – flute

refrain after verse 3
all gathered with choir

O shel-ter me, O shel-ter me. The way a -
head is dark and dif-fi-cult to see. O shel-ter me, O shel-ter me, all will be
well if on-ly you would shel-ter me. All will be well if on-ly you would shel-ter me.

Shelter Me was composed by Father Michael Joncas during the beginning of the Covid epidemic. He found the words in Psalm 23 to be healing as so many were sheltering at home, feeling isolated and separated from our church communities. He paraphrased the words of Psalm 23 for *Shelter Me*.

Offering

*Doxology

Give Thanks

H. Smith

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the poor say, "I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us." Give thanks! Give thanks!

*Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory
verses 1, 3, and 5

Pilgrim #366

Benediction

Benediction response

Lead Us from Death to Life
Refrain

NCH #581

Postlude

Sonatina Op.36, No. 1

by Muzio Clementi
Sandy Nolan, organist

Announcements

Update from the Search Team

Our Woodridge Church profile was posted on the national UCC Ministry Opportunities website on Maundy Thursday. We have already received the profiles of eight interested pastors, many of whom we are excited about. It is likely that we will receive more. We have started the interviewing process, which can take several months. Please hold us in prayer as we work to discern who God is calling to serve as our next pastor.

P.S. If you missed our Woodridge Church profile when it was emailed out and would like to see it, please contact Martha Ryan at 401.623.9192 / marthajsryan@verizon.net

Save the date: Our (almost) **May Breakfast** will be on Saturday, April 27, 8 - 11 am. We hope you can join us.

Please take a few minutes to stop in the Narthex to check out the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board. There are opportunities for bakers, bussers, cleaner uppers, coffee and juice pourers, cooks, decorators, dish washers, donors, prep cooks, greeters, kitchen helpers, pastry servers, servers, setter uppers, ticket takers and waffle makers. Anything you can do to help make this a successful event would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to all the folks who volunteered to be at the Church on Tuesday during the filming of "Ella McCay."

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.

*** HOLIDAY MARKET ANNOUNCEMENTS ***

Holiday Market will need items for the Penny Social Table, which is being revived for 2024. This is different from the Themed Gift Baskets in that we are seeking a single new item valued between \$10 and \$15. Please consider purchasing a Yankee Candle or lap blanket or a decorative item (possibly seasonal) or something masculine - such as a small tool or grill item or beard product or something for children, teens or pets. I'm sure you will find something perfect!

Holiday Market is also seeking gift cards valued at \$25. The gift card will be paired with a bottle of wine and sealed in a bag to be used for a new Mystery Bag table. Please do not donate a gift card to a hair or nail salon, as most people already have their own favorite place to go.

The Book Room is requesting gently used: books, games and jig saw puzzles - but please make sure no pieces are missing!

A Grief Support Group meets Thursday afternoons,
2:00 - 3:30 pm in the Conference Room.

This gathering is for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. For many people, a grief support group makes the process a little easier by building connections with others who are also grieving. For more information, please contact the facilitator, Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose at bbagbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org

A Quilt Guild has begun meeting the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, 6-9 pm. Find all the details and help yourself to a note posted on sanctuary lobby and Fellowship Hall bulletin boards.

Worship Ministers for Sunday's Service

Liturgist: Carmen Steinbrecher

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

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

The flowers this morning are given by Deb and Rick Therrien in celebration of their anniversary.

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.

Our Staff:

Rev. Tom Meyer, Bridge Pastor

revtom10@gmail.com

Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister

ewvandervort1@gmail.com

Sandy Nolan, Organist

sanolan00@gmail.com

Dan Blackford, Administrative Assistant

Office hours 9 am-1 pm M-F woodridgechurch@verizon.net

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