

*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](http://woodridgechurchri.org)

April 28, 2024

[facebook.com/woodridgecongregational](https://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

Introspection

J. Krug

Woodridge Chimes

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

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

O Lord God, we give you thanks that through Jesus Christ, you have made us branches of your vine. Help us to abide in Christ and be disciples of your word, that we may live and grow in him and bear good fruit for the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord in whose name we pray 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: From you come my praise in the great congregation;

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and the families of nations shall worship before him.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Leader: Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

\*Hymn

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

Pilgrim #353

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 22: 25-31 (NRSV)

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

<sup>29</sup>To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

<sup>30</sup>Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

<sup>31</sup>and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Sermon Text:

Acts 8: 26-40 (NRSV)

<sup>26</sup>Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup>So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it."

<sup>30</sup>So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: “Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. <sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.” <sup>34</sup>The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” <sup>38</sup>He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. <sup>39</sup>When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Sermon: “A Convenient Story” Rev. Tom Meyer

\*Hymn: Abide With Me Pilgrim #209  
verses 1-4

Prayer concerns and celebrations

Anthem Ancient Words L. DeShazo  
Woodridge Choir

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	Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	NCH #43
Benediction		
Benediction response	<i>Lead Us from Death to Life</i>	NCH #581
	<i>Refrain</i>	
Postlude		

## 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](mailto:marthajsryan@verizon.net)

***The annual Stamp Farm Plant*** Sale will be held on Sun., May 19 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. They are located at 219 Comstock Parkway, and offer a wide selection of annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, and hanging baskets. Be sure to mention "Woodridge Church" when you pay so that a portion of the proceeds will go to Woodridge Church. If you need more information, feel free to ask Deb Therien

***Rev. Scott Spencer-*** Thank you Woodridge community for your prayers, thoughts, and cards. I am doing much better each week.

**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](mailto:bbagbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org)

**A Quilt Guild** has begun meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> 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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