

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

August 04, 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.

** All who are able, please stand*



Communion Sunday (intinction)

Gathering

What's happening at Woodridge?

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Gracious and holy God, we come to you because you have first come to us. We know you because you have revealed yourself. Give us in this morning hour of worship a new sense of your Spirit breathing through us. Lift our hearts with the words of scripture and our souls with the balm of prayer, enliven our minds with the words of scripture and interpretation, and newly enable us to dedicate our strength, our substance and our service to your work in the world. We pray in the name of Jesus 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:

One: We welcome you, Lord, God of Life in our midst.

All: We praise the Lord who provides us with Manna from heaven.

One: We praise the Lord who provides us with the Bread of Life.

All: We praise the Lord who nourishes our faith even on this day through the power of the Holy Spirit.

One: Come, Let us worship the Lord!

*Hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Pilgrim #335

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 51: 1-17 (NRSV)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. ²Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. ³For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. ⁴Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. ⁵Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. ⁶You desire truth in the inward being; therefore, teach me wisdom in my secret heart. ⁷Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. ⁸Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. ⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. ¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. ¹¹Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. ¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. ¹³Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. ¹⁴Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. ¹⁵O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. ¹⁶For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. ¹⁷The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Prayer of Confession

UNISON: Merciful God, help us examine our hearts so that we may be convicted of our sins and shortcomings through the ministry of your Holy Spirit within us. We come to you in the name of Jesus, your Son and our redeemer and we confess that there are times when we go against your hopes of us as your people. We confess that there are times when we go against your Word for us. In silence, Lord, hear us as we confess those things we have done, and those things we have neglected to do; times we have failed you and each other.

Brief Silence

Assurance of Pardon (unison)

Loving God, we ask you once again to receive us into your compassionate, forgiving arms that we might find favor with you for all the days of our lives. Empower us to serve you fully; to share the resources we have with those who have less, to weep with those who weep and to laugh with those who laugh. God loves us and forgives us. Thanks be to God, Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Sermon Text:

Ephesians 4: 1-16 (NRSV)

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. ⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people." ⁹(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? ¹⁰He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) ¹¹The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. ¹⁴We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. ¹⁵But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Sermon

"Knitted Together"

Rev. Tom Meyer

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

(The pastor will pass a microphone to those who raise a hand to speak.)

Speaker response: "This is my prayer." Congregation response: "This is our prayer."

Offertory On Eagle's Wings M. Joncas
Eric Van Dervort

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

*Communion Hymn Let Us Break Bread Together Pilgrim #288

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 today and leave the decision to parents at what age their children should participate. 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

The Words of Invitation

This table is open to all who confess Jesus the Christ and seek to follow Christ's way. Come to this sacred table not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit. Come to this table, then, sisters and brothers as you are. Partake and share. This table is spread for you and for me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

The Communion Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts,
People: We lift them up to God,
Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again and we say what we believe:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be the salt, and light, and Leven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west, north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen

*Hymn Blest Be the Tie that Binds Pilgrim #272

Benediction

Benediction response Go in Peace by K. E. White

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major and 3/4 time. The lyrics are: "Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day. Go in peace and the peace of God be with you al-ways. Cel-e-brate and share the joy! Cel-e-brate new life! Go in peace and the peace of God be with you al-ways." The score includes a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The first staff is numbered 1, the second 6, and the third 12.

Postlude

Announcements

Special Announcement: *Pastor Tom Meyer* has been a wonderful bridge pastor for us since Pastor Scott's retirement in January. He has planned and led our worship, participated fully in our board and ministry team meetings, visited us during illness, and been a pastor and friend to all. As a token of our appreciation, we are planning a pot luck luncheon following worship on his last Sunday with us, which will be September 1st. A signup sheet for the luncheon will be in the narthex starting August 4th. [We are looking forward to showing him how we got our nickname "Foodridge" and hope you will be there.](#)

Exciting Announcement: *Pastor Aidan Kelley's first official day as our pastor will be Tuesday, September 3rd, the day after Labor Day. He will lead us in worship as our settled pastor for the first time on Sunday, September 8th. [We hope you will be able to be with us as we warmly welcome him.](#)*

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.

Looking for golfers...We would like to know who would be interested in participating in a golf tournament by bringing back the Fred Malcolm fund raiser golf event. This usually takes place late September or early October. We are looking to have 4-5 teams of 4 players. It will be held at the Midville course in West Warwick which is a nine hole course. Tee off is approximately noon with dinner to follow. Please contact Barbara Stifano in the church office by phone or email. 401-942-0662 or woodridgechurch@verizon.net. Lets dust off those clubs!!!

Membership and Fellowship has posted the schedule of events for **Theatre By the Sea** and **The Terris Theatre** in Fellowship Hall, along with interest sheets. If you are interested in attending an event please sign up on the appropriate sheet. Please list your name and phone number. As you see others sign up for something you are interested in, reach out to them and make your plans!

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.

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Eric Van Dervort

Ushers: Grant Southard, Marsha Southard,
Robert Cole, Marianna Sarty

Stewards: Marsha Southard, Grant Southard,
Ellen Hunt, Bob Cole

The flowers on the altar are dedicated to
Walter Michaloski as a heavenly birthday wish
from John, Nikki, Richard and Sara.

Communion Preparation
Pastor Tom Meyer

Our Staff:

Rev. Tom Meyer, Bridge Pastor
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