

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation and
A Caring & Welcoming Community

Worship at 10:00AM

August 18, 2024

woodridgechurchri.org

facebook.com/woodridgecongregational



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

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*

Gathering

Chorale Prelude on "Seelenbräutigam"
George Blake
based on the tune by Adam Drese

What's Happening at Woodridge?

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Lord may we know the presence of the Holy Spirit with us today. May we be open to your leading, sensitive to you speaking and alert to your calling. Father, we invite the same power that was at work when Jesus was raised from the grave to be present with us here now. We pray this 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

Leader: Lord, we are afraid.

People: Reassure us of Your steadfast love.

Leader: Lord, we are afraid.

People: Comfort us with your presence.

Leader: Lord, we rest secure in Your love.

People: **Help us to always remain in your love.**

**ALL: All praise and honor to You, Creator,
Redeemer, Sustainer of all. Amen**

*Hymn O Worship the King, Pilgrim #6
 All Glorious Above
 verses 1,3,5

Scripture: 1 Kings 19:1-8 (NRSV)

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ²Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." ³Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. ⁴But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: "It is enough; now, O Lord, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors." ⁵Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." ⁶He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. ⁷The angel of the Lord came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you." ⁸He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God.

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Sermon Text: Ephesians 5:15-20 (NRSV)

¹⁵Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, ²⁰giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: "Be careful what you wish for!"

Rev Tom Meyer

*Hymn He Leadeth Me, Pilgrim #370
 O Blessed Thought

Prayer concerns and celebrations

Offertory March in D

Johann Sebastian Bach

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.

A Grief Support Group will be taking the first four weeks in August off and will resume meeting on Aug 29. 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 more information, please contact the facilitator, Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose at bbagbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org

Prayer Requests

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.

Helen Nisbet – Carol Kinoian's Mom, prayers requested as she is in Hospice. **Lorna** - A friend of Barbara Stifano, Prayers for tests and upcoming surgery. **Bob Picard** - A friend of Rev. Tom, Continued prayers for healing. **Ray Perrotta** - Continued recovery. **Charlene & Dave Barrette** - Prayers for daily struggles and his Cancer treatment. **Janelle Slepski** – Surgery went well, she is home, continued prayers for healing. **Marie Bouchard** – Prayers for healing due to a fall. **Mike and Marie** – Prayers requested by Darlene Hoague, Mike had a stroke and is having trouble with sight and balance. **Lou Giarrusso** – Prayers for continued health as he went home on 08/08/24 and is hoping to be back in church soon.

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.

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Eric Van DerVort

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

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

The flowers this morning are given by
Lori-Jo and Lenny Wahl in celebration
of their 52nd wedding anniversary!!

Beverage on the Terrace is provided by
Deb Moretti

Our Staff:

Rev. Tom Meyer, Bridge Pastor
revtom10@gmail.com

Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister
ewvandervort1@gmail.com

Sandy Nolan, Organist
sanolan00@gmail.com

Barbara Stifano, Administrative Assistant
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