

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

August 27, 2023

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.

Gathering Music

What's happening at Woodridge? *(see announcements insert)*

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

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 *(responsive)*:

One: Sing praise to God who rescues us when we fall!

All: Sing praise to God who walks with us on all our journeys!

One: Even though we fall, God lifts us and places us on paths of peace.

All: Even though we stray, God finds us and brings us back to lives of hope.

One: Thanks be to God, whose love is continually with us.

All: Praise be to God, whose mercy is over us all. AMEN.

Hymn

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Pilgrim Hymnal #353

Scripture Reading: Psalm 119: 33 - 40

³³ Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

³⁴ Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

³⁵ Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

³⁶ Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.

³⁷ Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways.

³⁸ Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.

³⁹ Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.

⁴⁰ See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.

Prayer of Confession (*unison*):

Just like Peter, Lord, we want to get all “legalistic” about forgiveness. We want to know if one time to forgive someone is sufficient. We might even be willing to extend forgiveness twice, but we have a tendency to follow the adage, “Once burned, twice shy.” Teach us to be humble and merciful. Remind us of the many ways in which you have offered, time and time again, your forgiving love to us. Heal our wounds and bind up our brokenness. For we ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Words of Assurance

In the name of Jesus Christ, each one of us has received healing mercies. We are now given opportunities to offer forgiveness and redemption to one another. May the peace of Jesus Christ be with us all. AMEN.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading: Matthew 18:15-18

¹⁵ “Now if your brother sins against you, go and show him his fault in private; if he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen to you, take one or two more with you, so that on the testimony of two or three witnesses every matter may be confirmed. ¹⁷ And if he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if he refuses to listen even to the church, he is to be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly I say to you, whatever you forbid on earth shall have been forbidden in heaven; and whatever you permit on earth shall have been permitted in heaven.

Sermon

Kind and Fair Communication Is Everything

Rev. Burton Bagby -Grose

Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

Pilgrim Hymnal #101

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Offering

Doxology Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. (*repeat*)
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!

Prayer of Dedication

Closing Hymn *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* New Century Hymnal #42

Benediction

Benediction response *God Be with You* New Century Hymnal #81
verse 1

Postlude

Announcements

Today - August 27 - we celebrate 63 years of marriage for Ray and Nancy DeCesare.

On August 31 - we celebrate Ken Read's 96th birthday.

We welcome the Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose as our "guest" preacher this morning.

Pastor Scott is away on vacation through September 3.

Rev. Bill Sterrett - the interim pastor at Edgewood UCC is on call for funerals and emergencies.

A new Grief Support Group has begun meeting weekly, on Thursdays, 2:00-3:30 pm, in the Woodridge Parish House Conference Room.

Please contact Rev.Burton.Bagby.Grose@gmail.com if you have questions or would like more information.

The Woodridge Golf Outing will be **Saturday, October 7**, 12:30 PM start time at Midville Golf Club, West Warwick, RI. All ages and skill levels are welcome
Contact David Jeffrey for more information: 401 451 0913 or djeffrey15@cox.com

Calling all Woodridge Gardeners: Do you have an overabundance of produce or flowers growing in your garden? Why not bring those extras on Sunday and place them on the table near the beverage on the terrace table where others in the congregation may "purchase" them for a contribution of their choice which will go to the Food Pantry. Any vegetable or flower will be appreciated! No garden in your backyard - why not bring along those extra cookies you made! – a great opportunity to share with our community and give a little to the Food Pantry as well!

Donations of non-perishable food items for the Interfaith Food Pantry continue to be needed and appreciated!

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Ushers: Lou Beneduce, Eileen Phaneuf, Deb Scipione

Stewards: Deb Moretti, Nancy Quintiliani, Deb Therrien, Rick Therrien

Beverage on the Terrace is generously provided this week by Adama Sarty.

The flowers this morning are given by Deb and Rick Therrien in memory of loved ones.

Prayer List

Prayers of joy and concern lifted up on Sunday morning or brought during the week are shared in a weekly email message every Tuesday: *Today's God Moment*

Keep in touch and stay informed . . .

In addition to prayer concerns, we send a Thursday email with general information. Please contact the office if you would like to be added to these mailing lists. Recorded Sunday services may also be found on our website.

Our Staff:

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