

From the pastor's desk ...

On November 2, we visited Temple Sinai to show support for their congregation following the horrific shooting at the Jewish Temple in Pittsburgh. What a powerful and moving service and what welcoming and kind hosts were our brothers and sisters at Temple Sinai.

The rabbi preached a very strong and timely sermon against anti-Semitism and our need to stand together. He also shared this observation during the prayer time.

He reflected that there are really 4 kinds of prayer. There are prayers of "please." Please God, I or we need help in some way. Then there are prayers of "thanks." Thank you God for all the ways that you bless us. Third, there are prayers of "praise" or, as he put it, "wow." God you are simply awesome and amazing wow! But finally, in light of everything that was so heavy on our hearts that night, there are prayers that ask "why." Why God did this happen? Why is there such evil in the world? Why?

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Worship highlights –

“We Are Called by God” – a short series of sermons for Advent

December 2

God Calls Mary

Luke 1:26-38

December 9

God Calls Joseph

Matthew 1:18-25

December 23

God Calls Us

John 1:1-18

Our Annual Children's Christmas Pageant will be a part of Sunday worship on **December 16**. Rehearsals and speaking parts will be worked on during Sunday School class time. All children who attend church on December 16 can be part of the pageant but must come by 9:45 am to be fitted for a costume. Questions? Ask Paula Duffy, Barbara Spencer, Laura Dillon or Pastor Scott: 508-838-6035 or revscottspencer@gmail.com

Community Christmas Caroling – December 9

This year, we will bring the Christmas spirit to two nursing homes – Cedar Crest in Cranston and Greenwich Farms in Warwick. Our schedule will be:

12:45 - gather at the Woodridge Church;

1:15 - 2:00 – Cedar Crest;

2:30 - 3:15 – Greenwich Farms;

back to Woodridge at 3:30.

If you are interested in joining us, email / text:

Scott at revscottspencer@gmail.com / 508 838 6035 or

Bob at nolan062400@gmail.com / 401 339 6134

Christmas Eve at Woodridge

5 pm Family Service - Children's message; Christmas carols; prayers; a reading of the Christmas Story.

11 pm Candlelight service of lessons and carols with worship leadership provided by our high school graduates. There will also be a message by the pastor, celebration of communion, and the lighting of our Christmas candles.

From the Associate Pastor of Music & Healing Ministry

You are invited to connect with each other and our community through...

Healing Ministry

- **PrayerConnect** –The holidays are a difficult time for many. I ask you to reach out to others, especially those who may be feeling lonely this holiday season. Perhaps they need spiritual support or a reflective moment. Perhaps just some daily words of encouragement.
 - You can receive a daily reflection that you can invite others to...And it can come to you privately in your email-of-choice each day, Monday through Friday.

Why not sign up and see what can come? You can catch the three weekly editions on Facebook at this address:

<https://www.facebook.com/woodridgePrayerconnect>

Music Ministry

- **Christmas Caroling** – come join us on Sunday, December 9 from 1 to 3 pm...we will meet at Woodridge and travel to two local nursing homes to raise the spirits of those who are shut-in during this season.
- **Choir & Chimes** *Thursday rehearsals are in motion ...Chimes 6:30 pm in the sanctuary...Choir 7:30 pm in the music room. **Will try us out...please? No prior experience...just bring your spirit as we'll help with the rest!***
- **'Prime Time' Chimes group** – rehearsals Sundays, right after worship in our sanctuary until June 3rd!
- **Do you play an instrument?** We are looking to build up the “band”. *How about you?*

Please continue to pray for all our ministries, that they will grow and expand into many places, guided by the Spirit. Amen!

With you on the journey,

Rev. Bob

Email: nolan062400@gmail.com

Mobile Phone / Text: (401) 339-6134

Christian Education & Youth News . . .

Upcoming Youth Events

Dec 2 - Sun. Jr. Youth Group, "Advent Adventures," grades 3 thru 7

Dec 9 - Sun. Christmas Pageant practice, assigned parts only - during service

Dec 16 - Sun. Christmas Pageant, all children welcome, Fellowship Hall 9:45 am

Jan 6 - Sun. Jr. Youth Group, "Sky Zone/Faith Zone," grades 3 thru 7

Feb 10 - Sun. Sr. Youth Group, "Sliding with Faith," grades 7 thru 12

For details . . . contact Laura Dillon, Paula Duffy or Barbara Spencer

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Service Ministry Teamwork

Thanksgiving Baskets Report

Contents and donations to assemble and provide 34 Thanksgiving baskets were donated by members of Woodridge for our annual Thanksgiving Basket drive. The baskets were picked up by CCAP and donated to needy families in the Cranston area.

Advent Service Project

Angel Tree is Woodridge Church's Advent Service project again this year, providing a gift to a child for a parent that's currently incarcerated. The tree is now set up in the Narthex. Pick an ornament from the tree. The ornament will identify a gift to purchase. Keep it in the \$20 to \$25 range. Don't wrap it, but return it to the church with the tag. We will wrap the gifts at the church and deliver them. If you need more information, contact Bob Cole: rcole2355@gmail.com

Mitten Tree

The spirit of many of the saints of Woodridge Church lives on in the tradition of the Mitten Tree. You are invited to participate by donating a pair of mittens—or gloves, or a hat or scarf—for an adult or child who is in need at this time of year. Your gift may be placed on or around the small table tree, located in the Narthex.

Volunteers are always appreciated at the **Interfaith Food Ministry's** pantry, where folks from Woodridge help out on the **second Saturday** morning of each month. Contact Bob Cole or any member of the Service Committee if you're interested. **Donations** of non-perishable foods may be placed in the large, wooden box, located in the sanctuary entry (Narthex).

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Thank you for your continued support of the ministries of the church through pledges and offerings. Keeping your support up-to-date even when circumstances keep you away from church on Sunday is very much appreciated.

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A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who came out and supported our **Holiday Bazaar**.

Whether you shopped, dined, baked, worked a table, helped with set-up or clean up, donated money or bought raffle tickets ...

We could not have done it without you!

Or net profit is \$9015.50

Thank you again for another successful bazaar.

I would personally like to thank the following Holiday Bazaar Committee for all their hard work.

My co- chairs Courtney Lombardi and Carol Kinoian.

Rick & Deb Therrien, Amanda & Jay Bombardier, Carolyn Palumbo, Barbara Stifano, Trisha Suggs, Linda Murray, Deb DiChiara, Ken Kinoian, Lou Beneduce, Holly Cole, Margaret & Sharon Pine, Marie Bouchard, Maureen Brown, Rebecca Rotondo, and our Woodridge youth volunteers.

Respectfully,
Deborah Scipione

Christmas poinsettia orders are needed by December 16, for plants which will decorate our sanctuary altar. An order form is attached or enclosed. The cost is \$11.00 each and you may choose red, white, pink or marble plants.

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Our next issue will be January; to be mailed/emailed late December.

Visit our website for the year-to-date financial report, latest board meeting minutes, birthdays & anniversaries and the prayer list:

www.woodridgechurchri.org

For the latest news, to be added to their email list, and most anything else about the Rhode Island Conference of the United Church of Christ, visit their website:

www.ricucc.org

Woodridge Congregational Church

An Open and Affirming Congregation

A Caring and Welcoming Community

 Find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/woodridgecongregational

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