

THE WOODRIDGE WORD

News from Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ

FEBRUARY

2019

woodridgechurchri.org

From the pastor's desk ...

These seem like particularly uncertain times in our country. There is much turmoil and polarization - and daily conflict. And it is winter - that time of gray skies, snow - covered trees and cold temperatures with no end in sight. Spring will come but it is hard to see that future of warm weather and long days filled with sunlight.

The future is always difficult to deal with in any season and it is hard to sometimes trust what the future holds. The coming of spring is one thing, but the unknown future of a country torn asunder or our own frail existence here on earth is quite something else. So if we cannot trust the future then perhaps as people of faith we can trust God with whatever lies ahead. The God who knows past, present, and future and who is willing to walk with us into the unknown as our traveling companion of love and mercy - in this life and the next.

Faithfully yours, Scott

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A new sermon series begins on February 10:

"What spiritual questions do you struggle with?"

The congregation is invited to supply ideas for Scott's sermons by submitting questions on this subject.

To submit a question - send Scott an email at revscottspencer@gmail.com or text him at 508 - 838 - 6035 or fill out a slip of paper in the pews on Sunday morning and give it to an usher or to Scott.

From the Associate Pastor of Music & Healing Ministry

Greetings, Friends!

Healing Ministry

- **PrayerConnect** – Love comes in many forms as we celebrate Valentine's Day this month. Perhaps you can be comforted by receiving a daily reflection, receiving the unconditional love and support that Jesus called us 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 email me (Rev Bob) at the address below or...
- You can catch the three weekly editions on Facebook at this address:
<https://www.facebook.com/woodridgePrayerconnect>

Music Ministry

- **Choir & Chimes** *Thursday rehearsals are in full swing (to use a chimes pun)! ...Chimes 6:30 pm in the sanctuary...Choir 7:30 pm in the music room. **Will you try us out...please? No prior experience...just bring your spirit as we'll help with the rest!***
- **'Prime Time' Chimes group** – rehearsals on Sundays, right after worship in our sanctuary until June 3rd! It's a good place to explore our music ministry!!
- **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!

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

April 15-17 - Mon-Wed. 2019 Mission Trip to Worcester, grades 7 thru 12

Details soon! Jr. Youth Group, "Monster Mini-Golf, Monstrous Faith,"
grades 3 thru 7.

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

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Especially for women, "Who Do You Think You Are" is a refreshing conference about "Self, Scripture and the Savior". The event is happening Friday evening, March 15 through Saturday, March 16th, at Godspeed Church just outside of Providence, RI. The conference is 7 - 9 pm Friday and 9 am - 3 pm Saturday; registration is Friday at 6:30 pm. Tickets are only \$40. This is a wonderful opportunity to refresh your walk with Christ, renew friendships, and enjoy a welcome retreat during the "gray days" of New England's waiting-patiently-for-spring season.

Elyse Fitzpatrick and Jessica Thompson of San Diego, CA, are well known authors and speakers. This dynamic duo engages women as they talk about the "old, old story" in a way that makes it new to our ears and hearts. They teach with joy, wisdom, humility and an engaging sense of humor, about how the Gospel changes our lives.

Check out the Godspeed Church Website where you can learn more about Elyse and Jessica and register for the conference. And take a peek at Elyse speaking on this brief Video Clip.

Seating is limited so reserve your ticket(s) soon! We look forward to seeing you!

Woodridge contact: Elayna Boucher: ebouch@verizon.net

Getting to know Hope . . .

This month Hope Cahill started us as our new Sunday School Coordinator. She joins us from First Congregational Church, UCC of North Attleboro (Oldtown). Hope became affiliated with the UCC in 2009 when she was the Administrative Assistant for the Rhode Island Conference. She left the conference to stay home with her kids and as a family they joined Oldtown Church. In 2017 she started as church secretary and joined the church committee. In addition to those roles Hope acted as chairperson for their fall fair in 2017 & 2018, a role she plans to continue in 2019.

Hope and her husband Christopher live in Johnston with their two children; Nolan (8) and Katelyn (5.5) and their dog Callie. Hope likes to spend her free time crafting, reading Elin Hildebrand books and kickboxing. She also enjoys watching Nolan play soccer, leading Kate's Girl Scout troop and counting down to the family's annual trip to Block Island.

Membership & Fellowship – coming events . . .

The All Church Birthday Party is February 10th after service.

Dinners for Fun and Fellowship . . .

Calling all people who love to eat! Sundays in March will bring an opportunity to dine with other church members. Instead of a potluck at church, we are planning smaller get-togethers in homes. Watch for the sign-up sheets, where you can indicate which Sundays you are available and whether you would be willing to host the meal. Depending on the interest, plan on a group of 5 to 8 people. **Please sign up by February 15.** We will post lists of the dinner party members and hosts on February 22. Hosts will coordinate the potluck meal with their assigned diners. If you need a ride to dinner please contact Courtney Lombardi and a ride will be arranged for you.

Service Ministry Teamwork

Volunteers from Woodridge helped at the interfaith **food pantry** on January 12. We served: 54 families; 96 adults; 19 adults over 65 and 101 children.

There were many donations to the **mitten tree** this year (see below), so the Service ministry team gave out hats, mittens and scarves donated by Woodridge to people attending the food pantry. Any donations from the mitten tree that were not distributed at the food pantry, along with some of our food donations in the Narthex, we donated to CCAP, who expressed their gratitude to Woodridge.

Our next Saturday for the food pantry is February 9th.

If you are interested in volunteering at the pantry (95 Hathaway St, off Elwood Ave) or another service activity, contact Bob Cole or any Service ministry team member.

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Our Advent/Christmas Mitten Tree project has concluded. Thank you for your support! 43 pairs of gloves & mittens, 31 scarves, 16 hats and 2 pairs of socks were donated.

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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.



If the weather and/or driving conditions are poor on any Sunday morning, always use your best judgement in deciding whether or not to come to church . . .

If Sunday services are cancelled due to severe weather, the following steps will be taken to notify the congregation:

- The Moderator will contact Rhode Island Broadcasters Association to report the cancellation of services. Church members will be able to tune into local television and radio stations, as well as the corresponding websites, to find the cancellation notice.
- The Minister or Moderator will contact the Associate Minister of Music and the Sunday School Coordinator to inform them of the decision to cancel services.
- The Associate Minister of Music will inform the appropriate choir members of the cancellation.
- The Sunday School Coordinator will inform teachers of the cancellation.

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Our next issue will be March; to be mailed/emailed late February.

Visit our website for the year-to-date financial report, latest board meeting minutes:

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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