

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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



Worship at 10:00 AM

woodridgechurchri.org

February 25, 2024

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

O God, How We Have Wandered

by Kevin Nichols (1980)
Prime Time Chimers

What's happening at Woodridge? *(see the bulletin 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:

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
Let us also lay aside every weight, and the sin that clings so closely
And let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,
Looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. Amen

Hymn

Lift High the Cross

New Century Hymnal #198

Scripture Reading: Psalm 82

A song of Asaph.

Psalm 82 provides an image of a heavenly scene in which God accuses His heavenly messengers of not caring for the poor and pursuing justice.

The True God stands to preside over the heavenly council. He pronounces judgment on the so-called gods.

He asks: "How long will you judge dishonestly and be partial to the wicked?"

[pause]

"Stand up for the poor and the orphan; advocate for the rights of the afflicted and those in need.

Deliver the poor and the needy; rescue them from their evil oppressors."

These bullies are ignorant; they have no understanding of My ways. So as they walk in darkness, the foundations of the earth tremble.

I said, "Though you are gods and children of the Most High,

You will die no differently than any mortal; you will fall like one of the princes."

Rise up, O True God; judge the rulers of the earth, for all the nations are Yours.

Prayer of Confession (*responsive*):

We confess, O Lord, we seek to enthrone gods of our own making.

Lord, hear our prayers.

Worse yet, we lean upon and trust in these empty gods. thinking they can grant us security, peace, comfort and happiness.

Lord, hear our prayers.

We, therefore, set our course each day to pursue these empty gods.

Lord, forgive us.

Prayer of Assurance for God's love and forgiveness:

Guide us to create lives of love and goodness, running with endurance the life that God is giving us, that our lives may guide those who come after us.

Sung response

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

New Century Hymnal #282

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Sermon text: Hebrews 12:1-2

¹ Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.'

Sermon

Find Us Faithful

Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose

Hymn

Find Us Faithful

Jon Mohr

1. Choir

2. Choir and all gathered

O may all who come be-hind us find us faith ful, may the

5 fire of our de-vo - tion light their way. May the foot-prints that we

10 leave lead them to be - lieve, and the lives we live in - spire them to o - bey.

16 O may all who come be - hind us find us faith - ful.

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Offertory Anthem

The Lord Will Be My Shepherd

D. Besig
Woodridge Choir

Offering

A Lenten Doxology

Tallis Canon

Praise God through-out these for-ty days, Praise Christ our Lord whom

God did raise, and praise the spir-it who im-parts God's love in Christ in -

to our hearts.

Hymn

Great Is Your Faithfulness

New Century Hymnal #423

Benediction

Benediction response

Spirit of the Living God

New Century Hymnal #283

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Postlude

• • •

Announcements

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

Please note: Pastor Tom Meyer is away through February 25 (back in the office Tues., Feb. 27). In the event of a pastoral emergency Tom *may* be reachable by email but *not* by phone. You may also contact Rev. Bill Sterrett at 401 787 8828 (cell) **or** WilliamSterrett@cox.net

Easter Flowers

The Worship Team is delighted to continue our Easter flowers tradition. If you would like to order a lily, tulip or daffodil plant in memory or celebration of loved ones, we will decorate our Easter altar with the beautiful flowering plants. After the service you can take yours home. The dedications for the plants will be printed in the Easter bulletin. Here are the details for ordering.

1. Order forms will be available on the lobby table on Sunday mornings, February 25, March 3, 10, and 17.
2. Order forms may also be printed from a church website or email link and mailed to the church office with a check.
3. A member of the Worship Team will be available after worship to collect your completed form(s) and cash/ check.
4. Please make your check payable to Woodridge Church. Please enter "Easter Flowers" in the memo line.
5. Deadline for orders: March 17.
6. Cost info:
 - Lily plant \$18
 - Tulip plant \$15
 - Daffodil plant \$15

Thanks very much! Any questions, please contact Carmen Steinbrecher (crburney814.cs@gmail.com or 401-374-9191).

A Grief Support Group meets 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 many people, a grief support group makes the process a little easier by building connections with others who are also grieving. For more information, please contact the facilitator, Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose at bbagbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org

Worship Ministers for Today's Service:

Liturgist: Rosalee Marie Bagby-Grose

Acolyte: Benjamin McNally

Ushers: Nancy Quintiliani, Martha Ryan, Lenny Wahl, Lori-Jo Wahl

Stewards: Dianne Cavanaugh, Carol Kinoian, Gale MacDonald, Eileen Phaneuf

The flowers Sunday morning are given by Eric Van Dervort,
in loving memory of his mother, Dr. Dolores Van Dervort.

Keep in touch and stay informed . . .

We send a weekly (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.

Our Staff:

Rev. Tom Meyer, Bridge Pastor

revtom10@gmail.com

Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister

ewvandervort1@gmail.com

Sandy Nolan, Organist

sanolan00@gmail.com

Dan Blackford, Administrative Assistant

Office hours 9 am-1 pm M-F woodridgechurch@verizon.net

401 942 0662 or 942 0654