

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

woodridgechurchri.org

February 4, 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

Here I Am to Worship with O Worship the King

arranged by Carol Tornquist
Sandy Nolan, organist

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

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)*:

Leader: Holy and Majestic God, though we may feel as insignificant as insects in your gentle presence, we know you care for even the weariness in our bones.

People: Guide us we pray.

Leader: We look too far for your awe-inspiring power and miss the subtlety of your love.

People: Guide us we pray.

Leader: May our spirits soar on the wings of your sustaining and redeeming Holy Spirit as we worship you with our whole hearts this hour. We thank you for your grace through Christ we pray.

People: Guide us we pray.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31 (NRSV)

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Our communion table is open to all who wish to receive, regardless of church membership or affiliation. We welcome all ages to receive communion today and leave the decision to parents at what age their children should participate. We are now offering bread and juice separately or both contained in the combined cup; please take either bread or the combined cup when it is served.

Prayer of Confession (based on Isaiah) (responsive):

One: Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent:

All: Lord, Forgive us.

One: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wickedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness.

All: Lord, Forgive us.

One: We confess that we have rebelled against your love; we have turned away from you and followed the ways of the world. We have not loved our neighbor as ourselves, we have not heard the cry of the needy, and we have not devoted ourselves to you in trust and true faith.

All: Lord, Forgive us.

Assurance of God's love and forgiveness

Forgive us, we pray, and restore us into perfect union with your will and purposes, Amen.

Words of Institution and Prayer of Consecration

Communion Hymn

As We Gather at Your Table, verses 1 & 2

NCH #332

Receiving of the elements

Communion Hymn, *cont'd.*

As We Gather at Your Table, verse 3

NCH #332

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading: Mark 1: 29-39 (NRSV)

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Sermon

"Seeing the needs of Others"

Rev. Tom Meyer

Hymn

I Love to Tell the Story

New Century Hymnal #522

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

(The pastor will pass a microphone to those who raise a hand to speak.)

Speaker response: "This is my prayer." Congregation response: **"This is our prayer."**

Offering

Offertory Anthem

For Everyone Born

Woodridge Choir

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!

Hymn

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

NCH #472

Benediction

Benediction response

Go in Peace

K. E. White

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day. Go in peace and the peace of God be with you al - ways. Cel - e - brate and share the joy! Cel - e - brate new life! Go in peace and the peace of God be with you al - ways.

Postlude

Excerpts from Rondo A Capriccio Op. 129

by Ludwig van Beethoven

Sandy Nolan, organist

• • •

Announcements

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 conclude your request with the words:

"This is my prayer." The congregation will respond:

"This is our prayer."

In recognition of Super Bowl LVIII and the continuing concern with food insecurity, Pastor Tom is challenging Woodridge to add 58 cans of soup or another canned good to our collection next Sunday for the Food Pantry. Game on!

An Ash Wednesday service will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm Feb. 14, with the First Korean Church of R. I.

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@gmail.com

Wintertime worship advisory

If church services have to be changed to "live stream" or "zoom" due to snow and bad weather ... an email will go out to explain our plans no later than 8 am Sunday morning.

As always, we urge people to use caution and please do not attend worship if you feel it is not safe to do so.

COVID advisory

Although many symptoms are mild, COVID cases are at high levels. If you have symptoms or don't feel well, please stay home and join in Sunday worship via our live-stream. If you attend in person and would feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so. We try to have masks available for anyone who would like one. Please stay safe!

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Janet Lobaton

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

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

The enclosed envelope may be used to make a gift to the **Deacon's Fund**, assisting Woodridge family and community members with emergency needs. Thank you.

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.

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.

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