

From the pastor's desk ...

Sunday morning preaching and teaching - January 13, 20, 27:

“Thinking as Christians about Social Media” *(a 3-week sermon series)*

Background: Social media is such a huge part of all of our lives - but how are we to think about it as Christians? This sermon series will focus on that question with scripture passages to help guide our reflections.

Week 1: **"The Joy of Social Media"** - how is social media a gift to the Christian life?

Week 2: **"The Anxiety of Social Media"** - how does social media increase anxiety and damage our relationship with God?

Week 3: **"Christian Discipleship & Social Media"** - how do we live a life of Christian discipleship in a world so influenced by social media?

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New Sunday school coordinator

We welcome **Hope Cahill** as our new Sunday school coordinator beginning on January 7, 2019. Hope comes to us from North Attleboro UCC church where she has been active for the last 8 years. She is married with 2 children - 5 and 8 years old. She will work 6 hours/ week supporting and helping to guide our children and youth ministry on Sunday mornings. We look forward to having her with us - and for you to meet her.

From the Associate Pastor of Music & Healing Ministry

Happy New Year!!

Healing Ministry

- **PrayerConnect** – Well, if you survived the holidays, you know that sometimes reaching the other side has its challenges too. Perhaps you can be comforted by receiving a daily reflection. 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 return on January 10! ...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 and we'll help with the rest!***
- **'Prime Time' Chimes group** – rehearsals resume on Sunday, January 13, 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

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

12:30 - 4:30 pm at Seekonk Congregational and SkyZone.

Craft, activities and snack will be offered at Seekonk church.

*The theme will be "Epiphany." **Pre-registration is required.***

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

The Service Committee completed 2 service activities in December:

1. Our monthly volunteer activity at the interfaith food pantry on Saturday December 12th. For the 2019 year, Woodridge volunteers provided food assistance for 2,957 people. We continue to collect donations in the narthex and we share our donations with CCAP. The shelves at the food pantry were very low the month of December, so additional donations are encouraged, especially canned vegetables, rice and pasta. Woodridge's next Saturday at the food pantry is January 12, 2019 from 10 till 12. If you wish to volunteer, please contact Bob Cole.
2. Our Advent Service project was the Angel Tree where we purchased gifts for children of incarcerated parents. Last year the program was such a success that this year we increased the number of angels from 30 to 40 and all the angels were taken. Volunteers wrapped and delivered the presents. We had 17 separate deliveries to 40 children.

Mitten Tree “ornaments” gratefully received through Jan. 6

If you have not already done so, you are invited to participate in this annual Woodridge mission project 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.

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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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Never taken for granted but always much appreciated are the generous Christmas gifts to the staff . . . Thank you!

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WARRANT

The Annual Meeting of
Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ
will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2019,
in Fellowship Hall immediately after the worship service
at which time the following agenda will be in order:

1. To hear staff and department reports.
2. To vote on the 2019 annual budget.
3. To discuss any new business that may come before the meeting.

Holly Cole, Clerk

Marsha S. Southard, Moderator

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

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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