

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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



Worship at 10:00 AM

June 2, 2024

woodridgechurchri.org

facebook.com/woodridgecongregational



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
a just world for all

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.

** All who are able, please stand*

Gathering Music

Matins

by Lani Smith
Sandy Nolan, Organist

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

A Humble Prayer

Woodridge Chimes

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

God our protector and comforter, our shield and defender, hear our glad praises as we boast of your goodness. We gather as witnesses to your redeeming graciousness; we worship in response to your encompassing love. The birds start to sing before the sun rises, proof that you promise the dawn of new life while it is yet dark. Let your light shine on our darkness, that we may discern your will for us, giving You the honor due your glorious name.

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:

One: What we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ

All: Thanks be to God.

One: It is God who said, "Let the light shine out of darkness"
who has shown in our hearts.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: Let us in Christ give God the glory. Let us worship God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 20 (NRSV)

¹The Lord answer you in the day of trouble! The name of the God of Jacob protect you!

²May he send you help from the sanctuary, and give you support from Zion.

³May he remember all your offerings, and regard with favor your burnt sacrifices.
Selah

⁴May he grant you your heart's desire, and fulfill all your plans.

⁵May we shout for joy over your victory, and in the name of our God set up our banners. May the Lord fulfill all your petitions.

⁶Now I know that the Lord will help his anointed; he will answer him from his holy heaven with mighty victories by his right hand.

⁷Some take pride in chariots, and some in horses, but our pride is in the name of the Lord our God.

⁸They will collapse and fall, but we shall rise and stand upright.

⁹Give victory to the king, O Lord; answer us when we call.

Prayer of Confession

Unison: O God, hear our confession, for we still dwell in darkness. We are afflicted and crushed by a sense of inadequacy. When perplexed, we despair that there may be no hope. Persecution leaves us feeling forsaken. When foe's strike us down, we assume we're destroyed. We hear that Christ resides like a treasure within us. Transform our whole being so that we live in that truth.

Brief Silence

Assurance of Pardon

Unison: Do not loose heart! God is merciful and just and forgives us our sins. Renounce disgraceful, underhanded ways. Refuse to practice cunning or to

tamper with God's word. Be open to the truth of God's graciousness. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

Passing of the Peace

Sermon Text: 1 Samuel 3: 1-10 (NRSV)

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the Lord under Eli. The word of the Lord was rare in those days; visions were not widespread. ²At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; ³the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the Lord, where the ark of God was. ⁴Then the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" and he said, "Here I am!" ⁵and ran to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call; lie down again." So he went and lay down. ⁶The Lord called again, "Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." But he said, "I did not call, my son; lie down again." ⁷Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. ⁸The Lord called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, "Here I am, for you called me." Then Eli perceived that the Lord was calling the boy. ⁹Therefore Eli said to Samuel, "Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, 'Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. ¹⁰Now the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Sermon "God is Calling" Rev. Tom Meyer

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."***

Anthem

Footsteps in Faith

J. Krug
Woodridge Chimes

Doxology

Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Pilgrim #514

Offering Dedication

*Communion Hymn

Let Us Break Bread Together

Pilgrim #288

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.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Words of Invitation

This table is open to all who confess Jesus the Christ and seek to follow Christ's way. Come to this sacred table not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are fulfilled, but because in your emptiness you stand in need of God's mercy and assurance. Come not to express an opinion, but to seek a presence and to pray for a spirit. Come to this table, then, sisters and brothers as you are. Partake and share. This table is spread for you and for me that we might again know that God has come to us, shared our common lot, and invited us to join the people of God's new age.

The Communion Prayer

Leader: Lift up your hearts,

People: We lift them up to God,

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We thank you, Lord God almighty, that you are a God of people, that you are not ashamed to be called our God, that you know us all by name, that you hold the world in your hands. You have created us and called us in this life that we should be made one with you to be your people here on earth. Blessed are you, creator of all that is. Blessed are you for giving us space and time for living. Blessed are you for the light of our eyes and for the air that we breathe. We thank you for the whole of creation, for all the works of your hands, for all that you have done among us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore, together with all the living and all who have gone before us in faith, we praise your name, O Lord our God, saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord. God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

We thank you, Lord our God, for Jesus Christ, your beloved son, whom you called and sent to serve us and give us light, to bring your kingdom to the poor, to bring redemption to captives and to be forever and for us all, the likeness and embodiment of your constant love and goodness. We thank you for this unforgettable man who has fulfilled everything that is human -our life, our death.

We thank you because he gave himself, heart and soul, to this world.

We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples saying, "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, Jesus took the cup, after supper saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

Communion Prayer Cont.

By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again and we say what we believe:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Gracious God, we ask you to bless this bread and cup and all of us with the outpouring of your Holy Spirit. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be the salt, and light, and Leven for the furtherance of your will in all the world.

The Words of Distribution

Through the broken bread we participate in the body of Christ. Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life Christ gives.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west, north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us to the streets, to our homes, and to our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray. Amen

*Hymn	What a Covenant	NCH #471
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Benediction

Benediction response	God Be With You	NCH #81
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Postlude	March from "scipio"	by G. F. Handel Sandy Nolan, Organist
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Announcements

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.

Membership and Fellowship are seeking:

Volunteers to provide Coffee Hour June 2nd and 9th

There is coffee in the closet for both dates. Additionally, there are creamers in the fridge that can be used for June 2nd

Volunteers to provide Beverage on the Terrace, which starts June 23 and goes through early September.

Please use the sign up sheets on the Narthex bulletin board.

We are looking for people for the Livestream Team! If you are interested in sitting in the balcony during worship once a month and would like to learn how to operate the camera and computer and generate our livestream of the worship service, please contact Bob Ryan (bobby.ryan@verizon.net or see him at church) or Jay Bombardier (firebombjr@gmail.com or see him at church). Thank you very much!

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.

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 more information, please contact the facilitator, Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose at bbagbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org

A Quilt Guild meets on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 6-9 pm. Find all the details and help yourself to a note posted in the sanctuary lobby and Fellowship Hall bulletin boards

HOLIDAY MARKET ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holiday Market will need items for the Penny Social Table, which is being revived for 2024. This is different from the Themed Gift Baskets in that we are seeking a single new item valued between \$10 and \$15. Please consider purchasing a Yankee Candle or lap blanket or a decorative item (possibly seasonal) or something masculine - such as a small tool or grill item or beard product or something for children, teens or pets. I'm sure you will find something perfect! Holiday Market is also seeking gift cards valued at \$25. The gift card will be paired with a bottle of wine and sealed in a bag to be used for a new Mystery Bag table. Please do not donate a gift card to a hair or nail salon, as most people already have their own favorite place to go. The Book Room is requesting gently used: books, games and jig saw puzzles - but please make sure no pieces are missing!

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Jay Bombardier

Ushers: Debbie Scipione, Eileen Phaneuf,
Lou Beneduce, Richard Jordan

Stewards: Deb Moretti, Nancy Quintiliani, Richard
Therrien, Deborah Therrien

The flowers this Sunday are by the McNally family
in celebration of their family.

Communion Preparation
Maureen Brown & Sharon Albert

If you have interest in being a liturgist please see Carmen Steinbrecher.

The sign up sheet for alter flowers is located in the Narthex on the bulletin board

If you are interested in helping with Communion Preparation, please see

Maureen Brown

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.

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

Barbara Stifano, Administrative Assistant
Office hours 9am – 1pm M-F woodridgechurch@verizon.net
401-942-0662 or 401-942-0654

Upcoming Services:

June 9, 2024 Children's Sunday
This will include a Sunday School presentation
Come join us celebrate our youth

June 16, 2024 **Pride** Sunday
There is a place in God's heart, there is a place at Christ's table, there is a place here
and in every welcoming church for all people
We are Open and Affirming, join us in this celebration