

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

June 30, 2024

woodridgechurchri.org

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

What's happening at Woodridge?

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Loving God, you remind us that the kingdom of heaven has come near. Open our eyes, our faith, and our hearts, that we may know and celebrate your presence. Give us eyes, as Abraham and Sarah before us, to see you on our doorsteps as you promise unimaginable joy. Give us faith to trust in your eternal and unfailing love. Give us hearts empowered by Jesus to show your compassion to our neighbors. Amen.

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: People of God, run to our welcoming God.

All: Holy One, you never pass us by.

One: People of God, proclaim our love for the God of Love.

All: Beloved One, you hear our voices;
 you answer our cries and receive our praise.
One: People of God, sing God's good news to the world.
All: Empowering One, you give us power to be signs of the
 kingdom of heaven.

*Hymn

God of Abraham and Sarah
 set to the hymn tune Nettleton

God of A - bra - ham and Sar - rah, God of
 dan - ces in cre - a - tion, spin - ning
 loves the poor in spir - it, God who
 lives from birth to dy - ing, Depth of

3
 Mo - ses, Mir - iam's Guide, God of Da - vid and the
 stars a - bove our heads, God whose face is scribed in
 com - forts those who morn, Balm for wounds, the friend of
 sor - row, height of joy, Prais - ing God in ev - ery

6
 proph - ets, God in Je - sus glo - ri - fied. Up from the
 mu - sic, by whose hand the earth is fed. Up from the
 sin - ners, tak - ing the side of earth's for - lorn, Up from the
 sea - son, let ev - ery key our hearts em - ploy. Praise is the

9
 dust you raise a peo - ple, breathe in the breath of life, of
 ground you raise the moun - tains, raise our spir - its lift our
 depths you raise your peo - ple, giv - ing them cour - age for the
 heal - ing, praise, the glo - ry, praise is the fin - al mys - ter

12
 soul. Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al -
 eyes, Down through the years your peo - ple praise you till al -
 day, Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al -
 y, Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al -

15
 le - lu - ias make them whole. God who
 le - lu - ias flood the skies. God who
 le - lu - ias light their way. In our
 le - lu - ias set them free!

Scripture:

Psalm 100

¹Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. ²Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. ³Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. ⁵For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Sermon Text: Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. ⁹They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁵But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

²¹The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. ²Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. ⁴And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶Now Sarah

said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” ⁷And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

Sermon:

“A Laughing Matter”

*Hymn

Blessed Assurance

NCH #473

Prayer concerns and celebrations

Anthem

What Does God Require of You

J. Strathdee - words and music
Woodridge Choir

Doxology

Give Thanks

H. Smith

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,

Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his Son.

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!

Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

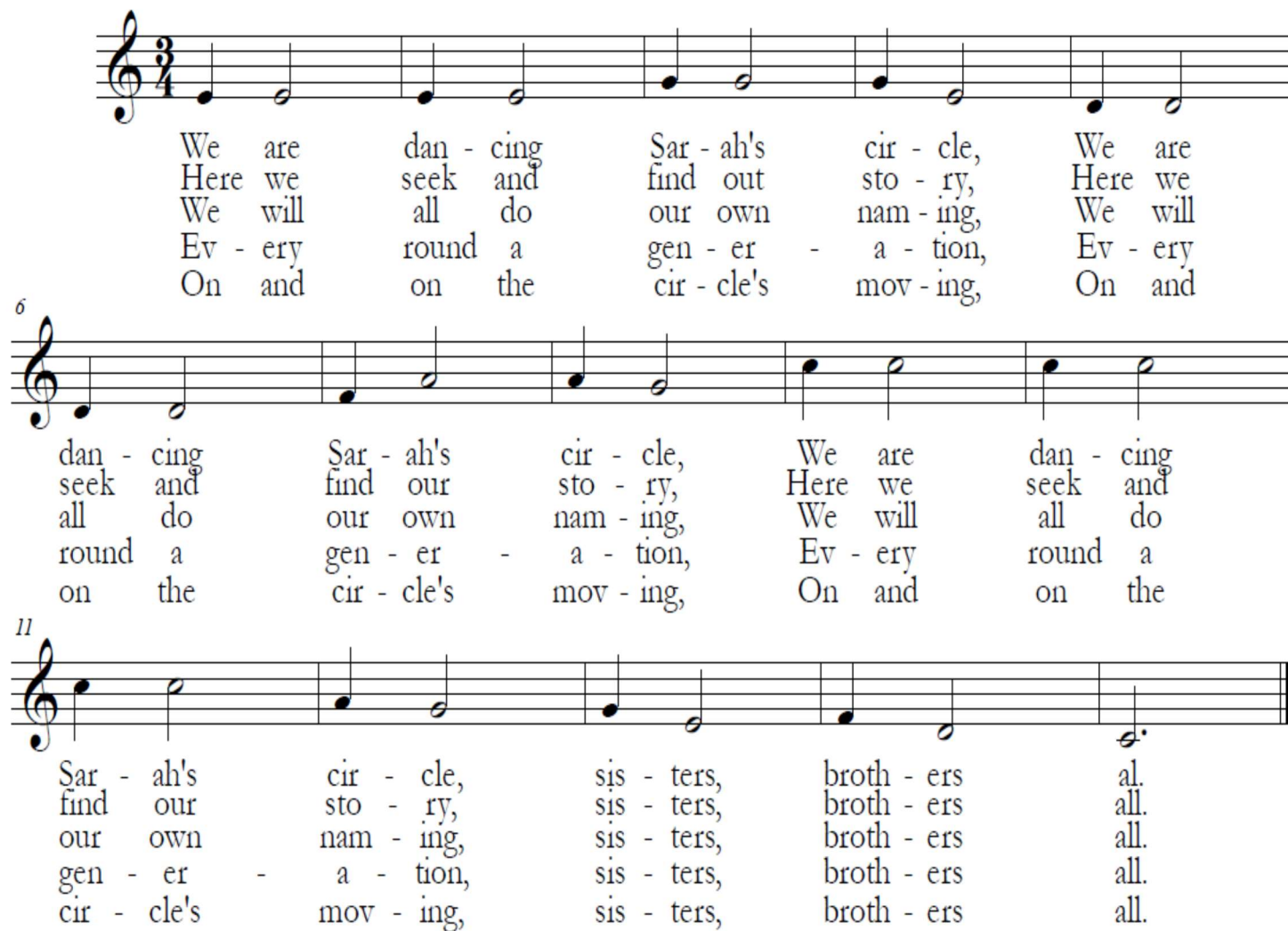
O God of love and faithfulness, we hear your call again to put our trust in you for all of our lives – past, present, and future. What you have begun to do with us – each of us, and all of us together as your church – is just beginning to be revealed. Help us in sharing the gifts we have given to be more awakened to the power of your love at work in our lives and in our world, and to trust you more for the journey ahead, through Christ our living Lord. Amen.

Benediction response

*Hymn

We Are Dancing Sarah's Circle

African-American Spiritual



We are dan - cing Sar - ah's cir - cle, We are
Here we seek and find out sto - ry, Here we
We will all do our own nam - ing, We will
Ev - ery round a gen - er - a - tion, Ev - ery
On and on the cir - cle's mov - ing, On and

6
dan - cing Sar - ah's cir - cle, We are dan - cing
seek and find our sto - ry, Here we seek and
all do our own nam - ing, We will all do
round a gen - er - a - tion, Ev - ery round a
on the cir - cle's mov - ing, On and on the

11
Sar - ah's cir - cle, sis - ters, broth - ers al.
find our sto - ry, sis - ters, broth - ers al.
our own nam - ing, sis - ters, broth - ers al.
gen - er - a - tion, sis - ters, broth - ers al.
cir - cle's mov - ing, sis - ters, broth - ers al.

Benediction

Benediction Response

Draw the Circle Wide

Gordon Light

Choir and Congregation

Mark A. Miller

introduction

refrain

Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle

4

wide. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. No-one stands a-lone, we'll stand side by

8

side. Draw the cir-cle, draw the cir-cle wide. Draw the wide. Draw the

12

cir-cle wide, draw it wid-er still. Let this be our song; No-one stands a-lone. Stand-ing

16

side by side, draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide.

back to refrain

Postlude

Announcements

Thank you to all who supported the Stamp Farm fund raiser. 12% of sales amounted to \$155.95 for Woodridge.

Looking for golfers... We would like to know who would be interested in participating in a golf tournament by bringing back the Fred Malcolm fund raiser golf event. This usually takes place late September or early October. We are looking to have 4-5 teams of 4 players. It will be held at the Midville course in West Warwick which is a nine hole course. Tee off is approximately noon with dinner to follow. Please contact Barbara Stifano in the church office by phone or email. 401-942-0662 or woodridgechurch@verizon.net. Lets dust off those clubs!!!

Membership and Fellowship are seeking: Volunteers to provide Beverage on the Terrace, which starts June 23 and goes through early September.

Please use the signup sheets on the Narthex bulletin board.

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 bbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org

We are still looking for people to help with 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!

Membership and Fellowship has posted the schedule of events for **Theatre By the Sea** and **The Terris Theatre** in Fellowship Hall, along with interest sheets. If you are interested in attending an event please sign up on the appropriate sheet. Please list your name and phone number. As you see others sign up for something you are interested in, reach out to them and make your plans!

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.

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.

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Martha Ryan

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

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

The flowers this Sunday are given by the Dillon family
in celebration of Emma's 7th birthday

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 9 am-1 pm M-F woodridgechurch@verizon.net
401 942 0662 or 942 0654