

THE WOODRIDGE WORD

News from Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ

MARCH

2019

woodridgechurchri.org

From the pastor's desk ... Lent 2019

I encourage you to review carefully the various Lenten programs and spiritual opportunities at Woodridge for Lent. In particular, may I encourage you to consider a special opportunity to learn about "spiritual journaling" through a class led by the Rev. Bill Comeau. **It is very important that we get a sense of who is interested by registering with me at revscottspencer@gmail.com or 508 - 838 - 6035.**

Lenten Retreat & Journaling

The Rev. Bill Comeau will provide guidance and support for those who would like to "journal" during Lent as a way to deepen this time of spiritual growth. Journals will be provided at the orientation on March 10 (after church at 11:30 am) and Bill will outline an approach for daily journaling. There will be a journaling "check-in" opportunity after worship on March 24 and a retreat for participants in Barrington on Sunday, April 7, to review and reflect on the Lenten journals. Again, please contact Pastor Scott with any questions and to register.

Ash Wednesday (March 6) - 7 pm

We will begin Lent on Ash Wednesday with an evening service in the sanctuary. The service will be appropriate for all ages and include: the receiving of ashes; an opportunity to use our Lenten sanctuary art for devotion; music; prayers; and a brief message.

*

*

*

Membership Exploration class: Sunday, March 17, 11:30 am

If you have questions or are interested in learning about church membership, this is for you . . . contact Pastor Scott for more information and to register at:

508-838-6035 or by email: RevScottSpencer@gmail.com

Lent at Woodridge ... Join us for the Journey

Theme: Pilgrims on a Journey of Faith

Lenten Symbol: The scallop shell – traditional symbol of Christian pilgrimage

Biblical Foundation for our journey: . . . They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. *Hebrews 11:13b, 14*

Through worship, music, preaching, fellowship, prayer, art, journaling, and service we will explore our Lenten theme of pilgrimage.

Lenten Sermon Series: “Stones to the Bread of Life” (5 weeks)

Overview: A pilgrimage journey often includes overcoming “challenges” in life. But it is the “Bread of Life” (Jesus) who helps us overcome those challenges.

March 10: “Stones to Bread” – the challenge of “temptation”

March 17: “Sticks & Stones” – the challenge of “judgement”

March 24: “Hearts of Stone” – the challenge of the “hardness of heart”

March 31: “Rejected Stones” – the challenge of “rejection”

April 7: “The Stone to Stand on” – the foundation to weather the “challenges of life”
Communion Service to celebrate the “Bread of Life” -- Jesus Christ

Lenten Mission Project

As our congregation prepares for Easter Sunday, we traditionally ask our community to participate in a Lenten mission project. This year we are collecting diapers, underwear and socks --all sizes-- for foster care children. Families who provide temporary or long-term homes for foster children often struggle to meet the cost of providing these items because they are not provided nor do families get fully reimbursed for them. Our collection will relieve some of the burden on these families and help them continue to provide for the children who need it most. Sunday, March 10th through April 28th look for collection boxes outside of the sanctuary and in fellowship hall.

Art

During Lent, we will feature the artwork of the Rev. Bill Comeau

for Lent

in the sanctuary, for ongoing reflection and devotion.

From the Associate Pastor of Music & Healing Ministry

Greetings, Friends!

Healing Ministry

- **PrayerConnect** – St. Patrick's Day is this month. You might find a fortune by receiving a daily reflection, receiving the unconditional love and support that Jesus called us to.

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 are in full swing (to use a chimes pun)! ...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 as we'll help with the rest!***
- **'Prime Time' Chimes group** – rehearsals on Sundays, right after worship in our sanctuary until June 3rd! It's a good place to explore our music ministry!!
- **Do you play an instrument?** We are looking to build up the "band". **How about you?**

*** Special Event ***

On May 14, Mother's Day, the music ministries of Woodridge Church & Temple Sinai will combine as Kol Pacem and present a concert at the Scottish Rite Masonic Temple at 6:30 pm. A donation of food or funds at the door will be for the benefit of the Cranston Interfaith Food Pantry. More information to follow!!!

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!

Sunday, March 31:

"Monster Mini-Golf, Monstrous Faith," Junior Youth Group, grades 3 thru 7, details to come.

Monday, April 15 - Wednesday, April 17:

2019 Mission Trip to Worcester, Senior Youth Group, grades 7 thru 12.

Saturday, April 20:

Community Easter Egg Hunt.

For details . . . contact Laura Dillon, Paula Duffy or Barbara Spencer

*

*

*

Service Ministry Teamwork

Members of the Service ministry team volunteered at the Interfaith Food Pantry on Saturday, February 9th. We served 63 total families, consisting of 98 adults, 18 adults over 65, and 114 children. **The food pantry is short on the following items we usually have: canned soup, canned fruit, boxed cold cereal and peanut butter, so please consider these items when purchasing food for donation.** Donations can be placed in the box in the narthex. Woodridge splits the food donations between the Interfaith Food Pantry and CCAP.

Our next Saturday for the food pantry is March 9th.

If you are interested in volunteering at the pantry (95 Hathaway St, off Elmwood Ave) or another service activity, contact Bob Cole or any Service ministry team member.

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.

*

*

*

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 10 . . . *Spring ahead!*



If the weather and/or driving conditions are poor on any Sunday morning, always use your best judgement in deciding whether or not to come to church . . .

If Sunday services are cancelled due to severe weather, the following steps will be taken to notify the congregation:

- The Moderator will contact Rhode Island Broadcasters Association to report the cancellation of services. Church members will be able to tune into local television and radio stations, as well as the corresponding websites, to find the cancellation notice.
- The Minister or Moderator will contact the Associate Minister of Music and the Sunday School Coordinator to inform them of the decision to cancel services.
- The Associate Minister of Music will inform the appropriate choir members of the cancellation.
- The Sunday School Coordinator will inform teachers of the cancellation.

*

*

*

Our next issue will be April; to be mailed/emailed late March. We plan to begin sending The Woodridge Word using Constant Contact. It will look better and may include pictures and other illustrations. If you have any questions, feedback, a new email address or would prefer to be taken off the mailing list, please let us know.

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

THE WOODRIDGE WORD ~ March 2019

Published by: Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ
Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

woodridgechurchri.org

Rev. Scott Spencer, Pastor revscottspencer@gmail.com

Rev. Bob Nolan, Associate Pastor of Music and Healing nolan062400@gmail.com

Hope Cahill, Sunday School Coordinator hope.cahill@gmail.com

Dan Blackford, Administrative Assistant woodridgechurch@verizon.net

401-942-0662 / 942-0654