

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

May 5, 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

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

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer:

Loving God, you sent your only Son to lay down his life for this world. Teach us to love one another as Christ first loved us. Draw us closer to Christ in love, not as servants but as friends. Help us to keep his commandments, that our joy may be complete, abiding in your love forever through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray saying...

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: O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: The Lord has made known his victory; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

All: Thanks be to God.

One: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

All: Alleluia, praise God forever.

*Hymn

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

NCH #337

Scripture Reading:

Psalm 98 (NRSV)

¹O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

²The Lord has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

³He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

⁵Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

⁶With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.

⁷Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

⁸Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy

⁹at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Help us, O God our savior; deliver us and forgive us our sins. Look upon your congregation; give your people the blessing of peace.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Declare your glory among the nations; and your wonders among all peoples. Let not the oppressed be shamed and turned away; never forget the lives of the poor.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Continue your loving kindness to those who know you; and your favor to those who are true of heart.

People: Lord, Have mercy.

Leader: Satisfy us by your loving kindness in the morning; so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our lives.

Brief Silence

Assurance of Pardon (unison):

One fact remains that does not change; God has loved you, loves you now, and will love you always. This is the Good News that brings us new life.

Passing of the Peace

Sermon Text: John 15: 9-17 (NRSV)

⁹As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹²"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

Sermon "I call you Friends" 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.**"

Offering

Offertory

A Place at the Table

L. True

Choir, Annie Britton - guitar

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!

*Communion Hymn

As We Gather at Your Table

NCH #332

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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 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 for ever 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.

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.

They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love

words and music by Peter Scholtes

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of four staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff begins with a repeat sign. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: Em, Em, Bm, Em, Em. The second staff starts at measure 6 and has chord symbols Am, Am, Em, Em, Am. The third staff starts at measure 11 and has chord symbols Am, Em, Em, C, C, with the word 'refrain' centered above the C chords. The fourth staff starts at measure 16 and has chord symbols Em, Am, Em, Am, Bm, Em, Am, Em. The lyrics are: 'We are one in the Spir-it we are one in the Lord, we are walk with each oth-er we will walk hand in hand, we will work with each oth-er, we will work side by side, we will one in the Spir-it we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all walk with each oth-er we will walk hand in hand, and to - geth - er we'll work with each oth-er we will work side by side, and we'll guard hu - man u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored, and they'll know we are Chris-tians by our spread the news that God is in our land, and they'll know we are Chris-tians by our dig - ni - ty and save hu-man pride, and they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love. We will love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love. We will love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love.' The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Em Em Bm Em Em

We are one in the Spir-it we are one in the Lord, we are
walk with each oth-er we will walk hand in hand, we will
work with each oth-er, we will work side by side, we will

6 Am Am Em Em Am

one in the Spir-it we are one in the Lord, and we pray that all
walk with each oth-er we will walk hand in hand, and to - geth - er we'll
work with each oth-er we will work side by side, and we'll guard hu - man

11 Am Em Em C C refrain

u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored, and they'll know we are Chris-tians by our
spread the news that God is in our land, and they'll know we are Chris-tians by our
dig - ni - ty and save hu-man pride, and they'll know we are Chris-tians by our

16 Em Am Em Am Bm Em Am Em

love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love. We will
love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love. We will
love, by our love, yes they'll know we are Chris-tians by our love. _____

Benediction

Benediction response

Halleluja (sung 3x)

NCH #236

Postlude

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.

We are looking for two more 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!

The annual Stamp Farm Plant Sale will be held on Sun., May 19 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. They are located at 219 Comstock Parkway, and offer a wide selection of annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, and hanging baskets. Be sure to mention "Woodridge Church" when you pay so that a portion of the proceeds will go to Woodridge Church.

If you need more information, feel free to ask Deb Therien

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

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Lou Beneduce

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 Lily's 13th birthday.

Communion Preparation Courtney Lombardi & Carol Kinoian

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