



Woodridge Word

Eastertide

May 21, 2020

In this season of physical separation, we continue to offer pre-recorded worship with Pastor Scott, Eric, choir members and musicians. Continued thanks to Bob Ryan for his video production talents making this possible. If you are not able to view our services on our website or Facebook page, we can send you a service bulletin and sermon—please note if you need a large-print version.

This past week's worship included a message by pastor Scott about "where is God in the midst of the suffering and loss of this pandemic?"

The scriptures were Psalm 22: 1 - 5 and Romans 12: 9 - 16.

Be safe. Be well. Stay faithful.

FELLOWSHIP TIME RETURNS!

Online or on the phone – Sunday, starting at 11:00 am for 20-30 minutes.

It's a "zoom" meeting, which you can join by ordinary phone, smart phone or with an internet-connected computer:

Dial: 1 929 436 2866 then, when prompted, enter the **Meeting ID: 641 481 6275** followed by the "#" sign.

Use this link if joining via the internet: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6414816275>

Starting this week – Thursday Night Education Series

"Essential Workers - Focus on Faith"

Zoom Meeting format – participate using the internet or by phone

7 - 8 PM

An opportunity to hear directly from 3 people working in essential areas of our state – to learn more about their work and perspective and to hear how these dedicated people of faith are experiencing God's presence and blessing. And there will be time for some questions and discussion.

May 28: Rev Ted Platt – chaplain at Scandinavian Communities in Cranston

- Rev Platt will share about his work in 2 nursing homes and the challenges he faces today

June 4: Rev Linda Forsberg – pastor at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in East Greenwich and director of Church Beyond the Walls (Providence)

- Rev Forsberg will share about her work with the hungry and the homeless in our state and the challenges she faces today

June 11: Craig Carpenter – Director, Carpenter Jenks Funeral Home in West Warwick

- Craig will share about his work in the funeral home business and the challenges he faces today

Contact pastor Scott for more information: 508 838 6035

To join the gathering by phone dial 1 929 436 2866

When prompted, enter the Meeting ID: **641 481 6275**

followed by the "#" sign.

(same as the fellowship time "meeting")

Using the internet, visit <https://zoom.us>

Select "Join a meeting" and enter the Meeting ID above

About Reopening for Worship . . .

There is a lot going on with churches reopening in first Massachusetts and then RI over the next couple of weeks. It is hard to know exactly what reopening will look like whenever it is.

Given all the uncertainty and how fast things are beginning to move - and how much planning work we need to do, could we recommend to our congregation the following:

We go forward with in person worship with the following 3 principles guiding our decisions and our plans:

1. Above all - our number one priority is the health and safety of our community.
2. That we seek to primarily follow the guidelines of the state of RI - but also seek guidance from other sources such as our UCC conference and other denominations.
3. That we will only reopen to in person worship when we feel we are ready to do so - guided by #2 above and with #1 as our number one priority.

In the meantime - we should continue to hold on - line worship for the rest of May and through June - so that we have time to:

- * complete our "reopening plan"
- * learn from the experience of other congregations as they reopen
- * survey the congregation (on line and hard copy) with their feedback on our "reopening plan" and their feelings about personally returning to in person worship

If at the end of June – we haven't finished to the satisfaction of our Executive Board and staff the work required on the above 3 points - then we will extend the timeline as we see necessary at the time.

On-Going Community Support ...

Food donations for the Cranston Interfaith Food Pantry are still being collected and are especially needed at this time. The pantry is still operating and in particular need of: pasta; juice; and cereal. *(Please avoid glass containers.)*

Note: The collection box is now located on the outside front porch outside the door into the offices and fellowship hall (30 Jackson Road). Please leave your donations there anytime. You do not have to enter the church building.

Staying connected ... if you are able to view email ... join ***God Moments*** ... an email that goes out Monday, Wednesday and Friday to those who might enjoy and be comforted by a brief scripture verse or reflection and the sharing of prayer concerns with others in our community. To receive the email - contact pastor Scott at revscottspencer@gmail.com

THE UPPER ROOM

Copies of the May-June issue are still available – contact the church office.

Giving to Woodridge in a time of social distancing . . . keeping up-to-date with your pledge or offering, if you are able, is very much appreciated . . . you may

- Mail in your pledge or offering by check: made payable to: Woodridge Congregational Church - mail to: 546 Budlong Rd, Cranston, RI 02920.
- Sign up for online bill payment - your bank will mail in your pledge or offering:
- Donate online with PayPal - use the new tab on our website

Thank you!

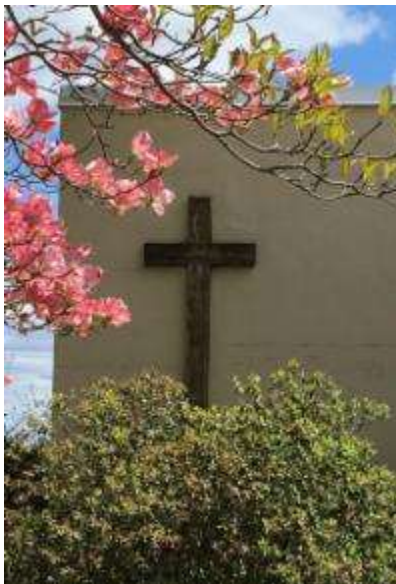
And always . . . let us know if there is anything we can do to help

Contact Pastor Scott at 508 838 6035 or email revscottspencer@gmail.com

Contact Dan in the office 9 am - 1 pm, Monday - Friday ... by phone or message or email: 401 942 0654 or 401 942 0662 or woodridgechurch@verizon.net.

Please do not come into the office.

Prayer requests can be phoned or emailed to Pastor Scott



Woodridge Congregational UCC

401 942 0654 & 942 0662

546 Budlong Rd, Cranston RI 02920

woodridgechurch@verizon.net