

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

May 26, 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

Hymn to the Fallen

J. Williams

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

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer:

Holy, Holy, Holy God, all the earth is full of your majesty. The lightning flash is a sign of your creative voice; thunder resounds with the magnitude of your power and strength. The rains fall as a reminder of your gentle refreshment; the sun shines in testimony to the warmth of your love. All creation is your temple; none can hide from you. Exposed to your grandeur and led by your Spirit, we give you all praise and honor, God of our lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus 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:

Leader: Give praise to God, O heavenly beings.

People: Give praise to God's glory and strength.

Leader: Give God the glory due God's name.

People: Worship God in holy array.

Leader: The voice of God is powerful.

People: The voice of God is full of majesty.

Leader: May God give strength to God's people.

People: May God bless the people with peace

*Hymn: All Creatures of Our God and King Pilgrim 64
verses 1, 3 and 5

Scripture Reading: Psalm 29 (NRSV)

¹Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

²Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name; worship the Lord in holy splendor.

³The voice of the Lord is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the Lord, over mighty waters.

⁴The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.

⁵The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.

⁶He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Sirion like a young wild ox.

⁷The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.

⁸The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.

⁹The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl, and strips the forest bare; and in his temple all say,
"Glory!"

¹⁰The Lord sits enthroned over the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as king forever.

¹¹May the Lord give strength to his people! May the Lord bless his people with peace!

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Sermon Text: John 3: 1-17 (NRSV)

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Sermon: "Being Born Again" Rev. Tom Meyer

*Hymn For the Beauty of the Earth Pilgrim 66

Prayer concerns and celebrations

Anthem	This is my Song sung to the hymn tune Finlandia	Woodridge Choir
--------	----------------------------------------------------	-----------------

* Doxology	Praise God whose breath fills all the earth, Whose love reveals our sacred worth, Alleluia! Alleluia! Whose Spirit forms one family Whose grace brings peace and harmony. Alleluia! (5 times)	
------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

Offering Dedication

*Hymn	O Beautiful for Spacious Skies	Pilgrim 440
-------	--------------------------------	-------------

Benediction

Benediction response	God Be With You	NCH 81
----------------------	-----------------	--------

Postlude

Announcements

Membership and Fellowship are seeking:

Volunteers to provide Coffee Hour June 2nd, 9th and 16th.

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 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!

Woodridge Church Yard Sale Will be held on Saturday, June 1 from 8 AM – 2 PM. Clean out your closets, basements and attics! Bring in your items for the yard sale and leave them on the stage in Fellowship Hall or in the janitor's room (basement). Large items can be picked up. Volunteers are needed to help during the yard sale. Please call Grant Southard (822-0799) or Rick Therrien (463-6343) with any questions.

Thank you for your many kind and generous expressions of appreciation on the occasion of my retirement. I want you to know how much I have appreciated the opportunity to serve with and for you these many years; it has been a privilege to work with four gifted pastors and several fine music and Christian Ed. staff members, and to get to know many of you.

I know I leave the office in perfectly capable hands, and wish you blessings and peace in your continued journey of faith and ministry together.

Dan Blackford

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: Janet Lobaton

Ushers: Carmen Steinbrecher, Sharon Albert, Les Steinbrecher, Rebecca Rotondo

Stewards: Courtney Lombardi, Carmen Steinbrecher, Les Steinbrecher, Rebecca Rotondo

The flowers on the altar are in memory and honor of those men and women who gave their lives serving our country so that we may be free.

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