

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



*An Open & Affirming Congregation and
A Caring & Welcoming Community*

Worship at 10:00 AM

November 12, 2023

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? *(see below)*

Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

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 *(responsive)*:

One: Equal with God, He emptied Himself.

All: **Jesus is Lord.**

One: Found as a man, He humbly obeyed.

All: **Jesus is Lord.**

One: He went to His death – death on a cross.

All: **Jesus is Lord.**

One: God raised Him up – giving Him the name above all names.

All: **Jesus is Lord.**

One: So that every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess.

All: **Jesus is Lord.**

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 (*responsive*):

One: We are too often stuck in the past, nursing old wounds, rehearsing sins of long ago allowing our visions for today and tomorrow to be stalled.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

One: We may be so busy with the things of life that we fail to see the presence of God and to count our blessings.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

One: We may be so focused on ourselves that we can miss the presence of Christ in those we meet everyday.

All: **Lord have mercy.**

Assurance of God's love and forgiveness

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22: 34 - 40 (NRSV)

³⁴When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶"Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Sermon

"The Great Commandment - Loving with all that we have"

Rev. Scott Spencer

Pilgrim Hymnal #66

arr. J. Krug
Woodridge Chimes

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be -

low; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God, a - bove ye heaven - ly

hosts, Cre - a - tor Christ and ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le -

lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

New Century Hymnal #181

refrain only, New Century Hymnal #249

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What's happening @ Woodridge?

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service - Sunday, Nov 19, 3 pm

Hosted by Woodridge this year, it will include a combined choir, readings in different languages and a sermon based on the Jewish theme of Tikkun Olam – *meaning to repair the earth*. This is a wonderful opportunity to join with other faith traditions as we all celebrate the season of thanksgiving and gratitude to God. It is a great service to bring children and young people to, as all of us enjoy the diversity of faith communities that evening.

An offering for the Interfaith Food Pantry will be taken and everyone is asked to bring a non-perishable donation for the pantry. A time of fellowship and refreshment will follow.

The **Grief Support Group** meets Thursday, Nov. 16, 2:00 - 3:30 pm in the Conference Room.

Contact Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose for more information.

Poinsettia plants for our Christmas altar display – yes, it's that time again! Orders are being taken now, through Sunday, November 26. The cost is \$15 and color choices are red, white, pink, marble and peppermint (red with splashes of white). Order forms are available in the sanctuary lobby, from the church office, and may be found "attached" to the Thursday email.

Plans are being made for 2024 . . . staying connected while maintaining and even expanding Woodridge's ministry and mission. Having an idea of the level of giving that may be anticipated certainly helps this process, particularly as Woodridge anticipates calling its next pastor.

If you are able, and have not already done so, please make a **financial pledge for 2024**.

You may put it in the offering plate on Sunday morning or mail it to the church office.

Pledge cards and return envelopes are available in the sanctuary lobby or from the office.

Thank you for your support!

Thanksgiving "baskets" are being assembled this morning (Sunday, Nov. 12); thank you for your contributions!

Thank you for your continued support of the **Interfaith Food Ministry** with regular or occasional donations.

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Lou Beneduce

Ushers: Sharon Albert, Rebecca Rotondo, Martha Ryan, Carmen Steinbrecher

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

The flowers at this week's service are donated in thanks for and in honor of everyone who volunteered their time and talent to make our bazaar so successful. God bless you!

Prayer List

Prayers of joy and concern lifted up on Sunday morning or brought during the week are shared in a weekly email message every Tuesday: *Today's God Moment*

Keep in touch and stay informed . . .

In addition to prayer concerns, we send a Thursday email with general information. Please contact the office if you would like to be added to these mailing lists. Recorded Sunday services may also be found through our website.

Our Staff:

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