

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



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

Worship at 10:00 AM

November 19, 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

Oh Happy Day

Trad./Edward Francis Rimbault; arr. Thomas H. Graf

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

African American Spiritual; arr. Rick Hirsch

Rhode Island Sax Quartet

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: Come before the Lord with joyful songs, because God is good, because God is generous, because we lack for nothing.

All: **Let us worship with praise and thanksgiving.**

One: Serve the Lord with gladness, because of God's greatness and justice.

All: **Let us worship with praise and thanksgiving.**

One: Come before the Lord with joy because God is faithful to his promises.

All: **Let us worship with praise and thanksgiving.**

One: Know that the Lord is God and we are God's people.

All: **Let us worship with praise and thanksgiving.**

Hymn

My God is So Big

arr. L. Stutzman

My God is so big, so strong and so might - y there's

noth - ing my God can - not do. The moun-tains are His, the

riv - ers are His. The stars are His hand - i - work too. My

God is so big, so strong and so might-y there's noth-ing my God can-not do.

Scripture Reading: Psalm 100 (NRSV)

¹Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

²Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing.

³Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

⁵For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Prayer of Confession (*responsive*):

One: Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude, the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world.

All: **Lord, help us to be more thankful.**

One: We often neglect the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and rebirth.

All: **Lord, help us to be more thankful.**

One: Forgive us for taking without giving, for reaping without sowing. Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise, and our hands to share.

All: **Lord, help us to be more thankful.**

Assurance of God’s love and forgiveness

Children’s Message

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading: 2 Corinthians 9: 6 - 15 (NRSV)

⁶The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. ⁹As it is written, “He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.” ¹⁰He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us; ¹²for the rendering of this ministry not only supplies the needs of the saints but also overflows with many thanksgivings to God. ¹³Through the testing of this ministry you glorify God by your obedience to the confession of the gospel of Christ and by the generosity of your sharing with them and with all others, ¹⁴while they long for you and pray for you because of the surpassing grace of God that he has given you. ¹⁵Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Sermon	" ... and God is able to bless us abundantly"	Rev. Scott Spencer
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Hymn	<i>Come, Ye Thankful People, Come</i>	Pilgrim Hymnal #462
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Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Anthem	<i>The Peace of the Earth</i>	Guatemalan Folk Song Woodridge Choir
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Offering

Doxology	<i>Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	<i>next page</i>
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Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures 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!

Closing Hymn

We Gather Together

Pilgrim Hymnal #21

Benediction

Benediction response

Peace I Leave with You, My Friends

refrain only, New Century Hymnal #249

Postlude

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Traditional
arr. Jack Gale
Rhode Island Sax Quartet

Members of the Rhode Island Sax Quartet

Dave Neves, soprano sax
Joyce Harrington, alto sax
Dan Pedro, tenor sax
Martha Ryan, baritone sax

♦ ♦ ♦

What's happening @ Woodridge?

Sunday morning we celebrate the following young people who completed a "Bible Basics" class. They are being presented with a youth Bible on behalf of the church.

Congratulations: Matthew McNally; Hannah McNally; Charistianna Sarty; Samantha Durante; Stephanie Durante.

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.

Poinsettia plants for our Christmas altar display – 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!

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

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Richard King

Ushers: Lou Beneduce, Eileen Phaneuf, Deb Scipione

Stewards: Deb Moretti, Nancy Quintiliani, Deb Therrien, Rick Therrien

The flowers at this week's service are given by Lori-Jo and Lenny Wahl in memory of Lenny's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Leonard Wahl, Sr. and Lori-Jo's father, Joseph Keating.

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:

Rev. Scott Spencer, Pastor

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