

*Welcome to*

Woodridge Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ



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

Worship at 10:00 AM

November 26, 2023

[woodridgechurchri.org](http://woodridgechurchri.org)

[facebook.com/woodridgecongregational](https://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

*"We Praise You, O God"*

Julia C. Cory  
Prime Time Chimers  
Bob Quintiliani, director

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

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: God stretches out the heavens and shapes the earth.

**All: Come and give thanks!**

One: God raises up the mountains and pours water into the seas.

**All: Come and give thanks!**

One: God calls forth plants from the soil and forms animals in infinite variety.

**All: Come and give thanks!**

One: God breathes upon us and fills us with life.

**All: Come and give thanks.**

One: God touches our hearts through family and friends.

**All: Come and give thanks.**

One: God loves us and blesses us with everything good.

**All: Come and give thanks.**

One: God loves us and surrounds us with love in abundance!

**All: Come and give thanks.**

Hymn

*I Will Trust in the Lord*

New Century Hymnal #416

Scripture Reading: Psalm 95: 1 - 7 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

<sup>2</sup>Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

<sup>3</sup>For the LORD is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his, for he made it, and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

<sup>6</sup>O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

<sup>7</sup>For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. O that today you would listen to his voice!

Prayer of Confession (*responsive*):

One: For the times we were unkind and impatient with those who needed our time and concern.

**All: God, forgive us.**

One: For the times we were too weak to stand up for what was right and allowed others to suffer because of our indifference.

**All: God, forgive us.**

One: For the times we refused to forgive others.

**All: God, forgive us.**

Assurance of God's love and forgiveness

Children's Message

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading: Matthew 6: 25 - 34 (NRSV)

<sup>25</sup>"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

<sup>26</sup>Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? <sup>27</sup>And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? <sup>28</sup>And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, <sup>29</sup>yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. <sup>30</sup>But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? <sup>31</sup>Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' <sup>32</sup>For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. <sup>33</sup>But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. <sup>34</sup>"So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today.

Sermon	“Do Not Worry”	Rev. Scott Spencer
Hymn	<i>My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff</i>	New Century Hymnal #418
Prayer Concerns and Celebrations		
Anthem	<i>The Healing of the Nations</i>	A. K. Organ Woodridge Choir
Offering		
Doxology	<i>Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow</i>	

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	<i>Trust and Obey</i>	D. Towner
--------------	-----------------------	-----------



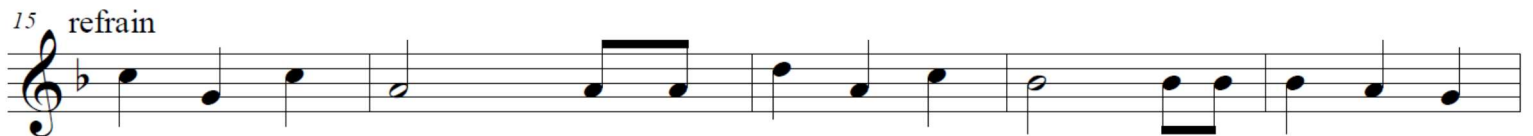
When we walk with the Lord, In the light of his word, what a  
bur - den we bear, not a sor - row we share, but our  
nev - er can prove the de - lights of His love, un - til  
fel - low - ship sweet we will sit at His feet or we'll



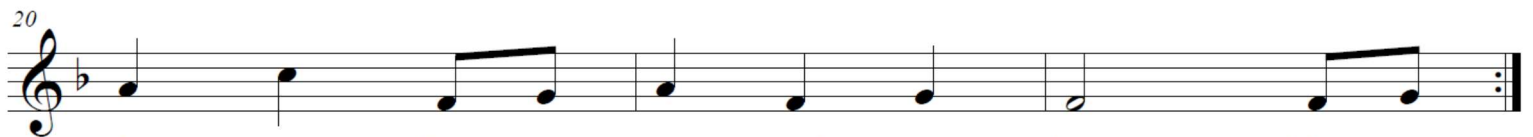
glo - ry He sheds on our way! Let us do His good will, He a -  
toil he doth rich - ly re - pay. Not a grief or a loss, not a  
all on the al - tar we lay. For the fa - vor He shows and the  
walk by His side in the way. What He says we will do, where He



bides with us still, and with all who will trust and o - bey.  
frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and o - bey.  
joy He be - stows, are for them who will trust and o - bey.  
sends we will go, nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.



Trust and o - bey, for there's no oth - er way, to be hap - py in



Je - sus, but to trust and o - bey. Not a  
But we  
Then in

Benediction

Benediction response

*Peace I Leave with You, My Friends*

*refrain only, New Century Hymnal #249*

Postlude

♦ ♦ ♦

# What's happening @ Woodridge?

This is the last day to order **poinsettia plants** for our Christmas altar display. The cost is \$15 and color choices are red, white, pink, marble and peppermint (red with splashes of white). Please use the enclosed form—more are available in the sanctuary lobby—or see a member of the Worship Team.

**Advent Adult Education** class (3 weeks) – **begins tomorrow, Nov 27 @ 7 pm – on Zoom**

*Details below.*

If you are able, and have not already done so, making a **financial pledge for 2024** will be very much appreciated in planning Woodridge's ministry and mission for next year. You may put your pledge 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!

The **Grief Support Group** resumes meeting Thursday afternoons, 2:00 - 3:30 pm in the Conference Room. Contact Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose for more information.

Thank you for any donations of non-perishable food you may be able to make, to the Interfaith Food Ministry. Items may be placed in the sanctuary lobby basket on Sunday morning or in the Jackson Road box (next to the Parish House entry door) at any time.

## Advent & Christmas at Woodridge Church

**Advent Giving Project:** \$30 gift envelopes will be **available beginning Sunday, Dec 3** to support a student from a church-run school in the West African country of Sierra Leone. Each \$30 donation provides a student with a uniform; book bag; school supplies; and other necessary items as needed. **If you would like to support more than one student – you may use one envelope to support multiple children.**

Envelopes can be found on the "Giving Tree" in the lobby of the church sanctuary and the collection will continue until Epiphany Sunday on Jan 7. Checks should be made out to "Woodridge Congregational Church" and returned in the envelopes provided on Sunday morning or it may be dropped off or mailed to the church office. Cash donations are also welcome. Thank you for your generosity and support.

**Advent Adult Education (3 weeks) – begins Nov 27**

**@ 7 pm – on Zoom**

All are welcome ... even if you have never attended an adult education class – to register or questions – email Scott @ [revscottspencer@gmail.com](mailto:revscottspencer@gmail.com)

To prepare for the birth of Jesus again into our lives and into our world – we will study these themes:

Nov 27: Hebrew Bible and the prophecies of Jesus' birth

Dec 4: The stories of Mary and Joseph

Dec 11: The 3 kings

### **Annual Christmas Pageant**

Once again we will be having a children's Christmas pageant to help celebrate the season at Woodridge. It will be held on Dec. 17 as part of our normal Sunday worship. Rehearsals and speaking parts will be worked on during Sunday School class time on Dec. 3 and 10. All children who attend church on Dec. 17 can be part of the pageant. Information on arrival time, to rehearse on Dec. 17 will follow.

### **Christmas & Epiphany Calendar**

**Dec 17:** Annual Christmas pageant

**Dec 24:** 10 am & 5 pm: Both services will include: a children's message; Christmas Carols; a reading of the Christmas Story; a message by the pastor; and the lighting of the Christmas candles.

**Dec 31:** 10 am: Special New Year's Service in fellowship hall

**Jan 7:** Epiphany Service

### **Worship Ministers for Today's Service**

Liturgist: Lenny Wahl

Ushers: Bob Cole, Grant Southard, Marsha Southard, Marianna Sarty

Stewards: Bob Cole, Ellen Hunt, Grant Southard, Marsha Southard

The flowers this Sunday morning are given by Lynne Sullivan and Lou Beneduce  
in memory of loved ones.

## ***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*

revscottspencer@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