

*Welcome to*

**Woodridge Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ**



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

Worship at 10:00 AM

September 1, 2024

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

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



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST  
a just world for all

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.

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*\*All who are able, please stand*

What's happening at Woodridge?

Opening Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Dear Jesus, you are the author and perfecter of our Faith. You save us and sustain us. Help us to trust in your and to worship whether we have a lot of a little. May our praise bring you glory and remind us of your promises. We love you, Lord, we seek your presence, and we worship you alone. We pray this in Jesus name 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: We, the Family of God, come together in unity.

**People: We have gathered to worship the LORD, our great Parent**

Leader: We are from many walks of life, people of many colors and fabrics.

**People: Yet we are woven together by the Master Quilt Maker; made into one beautiful piece.**

Leader: Let us approach God with humble hearts, always willing to be transformed into the image of Christ.  
Let us worship God!

\*Hymn

The Church is One Foundation

Pilgrim #260

Scripture:

Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9<sub>(NRSV)</sub>

<sup>1</sup>My heart overflows with a goodly theme; I address my verses to the king; my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe. <sup>2</sup>You are the most handsome of men; grace is poured upon your lips; therefore God has blessed you forever.

<sup>6</sup>Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity; <sup>7</sup>you love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions; <sup>8</sup>your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia. From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad; <sup>9</sup>daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor; at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

## Children's Message

## Passing of the Peace

Sermon Text: Romans 5: 1-5<sub>(NRSV)</sub>

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

Sermon: "Hold on to Hope" Rev. Tom Meyer

\*Hymn On a Hill Far Away NCH #195

## Prayer concerns and celebrations

Offertory Gratitude arr. E. Van Dervort

## Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God all creatures here below  
Praise God above ye heavenly hosts  
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.

## Prayer of Dedication

\*Hymn

## How Great Thou Are

### Verse 1

O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the works Thy hands have made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed!

### Refrain

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;  
How great Thou art, How great Thou art!

### Verse 2

When thru the woods and forest glades I wander  
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees,  
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur  
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. (Refrain)

### Verse 3

And when I think that God, His Son not sparing,  
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in.  
That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,  
He bled and died to take away my sin! (Refrain)

### Verse 4

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,  
And there proclaim, my God, how great Thou art! (Refrain)

## Liturgy of Farewell

### Greeting

**Eric:** Our church community is constantly changing. People come and go. Babies are born. Children grow up. People commit themselves to one another. Loved ones and friends among us come to the end of their lives. Individuals move into our community and church life. Others leave us, growing toward new places, new experiences, new opportunities. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share a farewell with our bridge pastor, Rev. Tom Meyer.

## **Ending of Authorized Ministry**

**Deb:** On January 28, 2024, Rev. Tom Meyer was hired to serve as our Bridge Pastor for the Woodridge Congregational Church United Church of Christ.

**Pastor:** I thank the Woodridge Congregational Church United Church of Christ, its members and friends, for the love, kindness and support shown me these last seven months. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been encouraged and accepted here and as I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**Congregation:** **We receive your thankfulness, offer and accept that your time with us is ending. We express our gratitude for your ministry among us. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us at your departure.**

## **Vows of Release**

**Deb:** Do, you, the members and friends of the Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ, release the Rev. Tom Meyer from the duties of bridge pastor?

**Congregation:** **We do, with the help of God.**

**Deb:** Do you offer him your encouragement as his life and ministry unfold in new ways?

**Congregation:** **We do, with the help of God.**

**Deb:** Do you, Rev. Tom Meyer, release the Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ from turning to you and depending on you?

**Pastor:** I do, with the help of God.

**Deb:** Do you offer your encouragement for the continuing ministry here and on the relationship with Rev. Aidan Kelley who will come to serve on September 3, 2024?

**Pastor:** I do, with the help of God.

**Deb:** On behalf of the Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ and with the words of thankfulness, and release spoken, Rev. Thomas Myer you are released from the duties of Bridge Pastor and we hold you in prayer and pledge our support in the transition signified in this service.

## **Prayer**

**Eric:** Let us pray:

**All: O God, we give thanks for remembered times, when we, together, have shared this life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Rev. Tom Meyer in worship, in prayer, and in presence. We pray that Pastor Tom will always be aware of your Spirit's guidance in his life and ministry. Help each of us to trust the future which rests in your care. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories but move in new directions, until that time to come when we are completely one with you and with each other. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

Benediction

Benediction response



Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day. Go in peace and the  
6 peace of God be with you al - ways. Cel - e - brate and share the joy! Cel - e - brate new  
12 life! Go in peace and the peace of God be with you al - ways.

Postlude

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Words and Music by Martin Luther

### 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. Please contact the church office with concern updates as necessary.

**Helen Nisbet** – Carol Kinoian’s Mom, prayers requested as she is in Hospice.

**Ray Perrotta** - Continued recovery.

**Dianne Dugan** – Had her surgery. She is at home and recovering.

**Charlene & Dave Barrette** - Prayers for daily struggles and his Cancer treatment.

**Janelle Slepki** - Prayers for continued recovery.

**Lorna** (friend of Barbara Stifano) – Prayers as she was diagnosed with Cancer and is waiting for her treatment plan.

*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 most heartfelt prayers  
for a continued faithful journey  
for Pastor Tom as he leaves us today.  
We will miss you.  
Thank you for your time with us.*

## **Announcements**

**Pastor Aidan’s first service with us as our new pastor will be next Sunday, 09/08/24. Hope to see you there to give him a warm welcome.**

**The Date is set for the Woodridge-Fred Malcolm Golf Outing Fund Raiser.** It will be October 6, 2024, 12:30PM start time. Midville Golf Club, West Warwick RI. **ALL AGES AND SKILL LEVELS ARE WELCOME** The Fee for this event is \$75.00 per person payable in advance to Woodridge UCC please indicate on memo line: Golf Outing. Please send checks to the Church office: 30 Jackson Road Cranston, RI 02920 % Barbara Stifano by 09/29/24. Funds from this event go to

Woodridge Church and the Leukemia Research Foundation. Call or email the office with questions, 401-942-0662 or [woodridgechurch@verizon.net](mailto:woodridgechurch@verizon.net).

**There will be a Holiday Market meeting** on September 8th after Church. All are welcome to attend, we are always looking for new ideas and new helpers! We will be discussing signup sheets, baked goods list and outdoor signage. We may also need to revisit ticket prices and how to manage a 50/50 raffle where people who buy tickets may leave before the winner is drawn. We want to keep that simple!

**If you have already purchased wine or a gift card for the Mystery Bags**, please bring them in - we will store them, so you don't have to! I know I routinely have the problem of 'Why is this here?' and its corollary of 'Now where did I put that?!' Let us help you with that!

**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 ([bobbyryan@verizon.net](mailto:bobbyryan@verizon.net) or see him at church) or Jay Bombardier ([firebombjr@gmail.com](mailto:firebombjr@gmail.com) or see him at church). Thank you very much!

**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.

**The Grief Support** 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](mailto:bbagbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org)

**Looking Ahead to Rally Day** which will be September 15, 2024 when we say farewell to summer and say goodbye to the fun in the sun season. This is when we return to our normal schedules, back to school, back to work, and back to church. This year we start anew with our new Pastor, Aidan Kelly and look forward to all he will bring to his new church family. Let us all open our minds and hearts to this new and exciting journey we are about to embark on together.

**Keep in mind** The last Beverage on the Terrace will be Sept. 15, 2024. We will then go back to “Coffee” and cookies, fruit, crackers and cheese, cupcakes, cakes, juice and whatever item one decides to bring to Fellowship Hall. So if you are thinking you might want to sign up to bring something, that would be great. Food brings us all together.

**Communion Sundays** will go back to regular distribution in September. We will celebrate Communion with Pastor Aidan on September 8, 2024.



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

Liturgist: Carmen Steinbrecher

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

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

The flowers this morning are given by  
Deb DiChiara in memory of her husband Frank,  
and as a birthday remembrance of her father, Kenneth Read.

The Pot Luck for Pastor Tom  
following service this morning is supplied by  
the Woodridge (Foodridge) Family

### **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*  
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