

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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



Worship at 10:00 AM

September 10, 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

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Music from Gesangbuch der Herzog; Arranged by Phillip Keveren
Sandy Nolan, organist

What's happening at Woodridge? *(see announcements insert)*

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: Welcome Home

All: Home is not a building or a place we meet.

One: Home is a welcome at the door.

All: Home is a hug of acceptance.

One: Home is the laughter around the table, bread and cup.

All: Home is remembering promises made in water and spirit.

One: Home is seeing where God is leading us

All: And going there together

One: Welcome home to Woodridge.

All: Where we welcome children, care for each other, and learn how to be a caring and welcoming community.

One: Welcome Home.

All: Where we are better and more faithful together

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.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Our communion table is open to all who wish to receive, regardless of church membership or affiliation. We welcome all ages to receive communion today and leave the decision to parents at what age their children should participate. We are now offering bread and juice separately or both contained in the combined cup; please take either bread or the combined cup when it is served.

Prayer of Confession (*responsive*):

We confess that we do not always walk in the Light of God.

Forgive us we pray.

We sometimes judge and condemn others unfairly.

Forgive us we pray.

We often do not turn to you as the source of all healing.

Forgive us we pray.

We can put ourselves first – ahead of God and others.

Forgive us we pray.

Assurance of God's love and forgiveness

Communion Hymn

Taste and See

Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

O taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord

Words of Invitation

Communion Prayer

Pastor: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to God.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God.

People: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Words of Institution and Prayer of Consecration

Sharing of the elements

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Gracious God, we thank you that in this sacrament you assure us again of your goodness and love. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving and help us to grow in love and obedience, that we may serve you in the world. Now send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work for your praise and glory. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Message "The Path Forward" Rev. Scott Spencer

You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures for evermore. *Psalm 16: 11*
Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. *John 14: 6*

Adding our stone to the "community cairn"

Hymn

We Are Marching in the Light of God
South African Traditional

all gathered

The musical score is written for a single melodic line in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 4/4 time. It consists of three systems of music, each with four measures. The first system begins with a repeat sign. The melody features several triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over a bracketed group of notes). The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words split across lines. The second system starts at measure 4. The third system starts at measure 8 and ends with a double bar line.

We are march - ing in the light of God we are march-ing in the light of God.
dan - cing
pray - ing
sing - ing

4 We are march - ing in the light of God We are march-ing in the light of God.
dan - cing
pray - ing
pray - ing
sing - ing

8 We are march-ing we are march-ing in the light of God. We are
dan - cing we are dan - cing
pray - ing we are pray - ing
sing - ing we are sing - ing

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Commissioning of Our Pastoral Search Committee:

Invitation (*introduction of members*): Lou Beneduce, Mike Corey, Laura Dillon, Joe DiPietro, Barbara Gloria, Ellen Hunt, Eileen Phaneuf, Nancy Quintiliani, Martha Ryan, Debbie Therrien.

Response

Leader There are different gifts.

People But it is the same Spirit who gives them.

Leader Each one is given a gift by the Spirit.

People To be used for the common good.

Address to the Committee Members

Siblings in Christ, you have committed yourselves to a significant leadership task on behalf of the entire congregation. In recognition of the importance of your work, we pause to express our gratitude and to remind ourselves that you do not undertake this task alone; you will be guided by the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, the prayerful support of the members of this church, and the assistance of the United Church of Christ through the Association and Conference.

Covenant

Committee Members

We, who are serving on the Search Committee for the Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ, promise to perform faithfully the vital task of searching for a new pastor. We pledge, with God's guidance and your prayers, to be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit in all we do, say and decide. We will endeavor:

- To establish a harmonious working relationship within our committee;
- To maintain consistent attendance at our Search Committee meetings;
- To be open and patient listeners to each other and to the congregation;
- To listen carefully to your hopes and dreams as we consult with you, the members, in the development of a description of our church community and the style of pastoral leadership we seek;
- To maintain strict confidentiality in all we read, say, and hear—protecting both the privacy of each other and of potential candidates;
- To review all profiles with open minds and hearts, treating all candidates fairly and justly;
- To seek decisions not made by majority rule, but by the coming together of minds, hearts, and souls in a consensus that will build a firm foundation for the effective future mission and ministry of this church.

People

We pledge, a gathered community of faith, to be patient with you and to respect your need to be confidential in your task. We recognize that the work of our search committee is a difficult assignment and will take much effort. We pray for you and offer our support and words of encouragement throughout this time. These things we promise in the hope and belief that you will be obedient to the guidance of the Holy Spirit as you seek a new pastor to minister with us.

Closing Prayer

Offering

Doxology Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son. *(repeat)*
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"; let the poor say,
"I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us." Give thanks!___ Give thanks!

Closing Hymn

All Are Welcome
Music and Lyrics by Marty Haugen

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly___
build a house where love is found in wa - ter wine and___
build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions

live. A___ place where saints and chil - dren tell how___ hearts learn to for-
wheat. A___ ban - quet hall on ho - ly___ ground, where peace and jus-tice
heard And loved and treas - ured taught and claimed as___ words with-in the

give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of
meet. Here the love of God through Je - sus is re - vealed in time and
Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter prayers of faith and songs of

grace. Here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions, All are wel - come,
space. As we share in Christ the feast that frees us, All are wel - come,
grace. Let this house pro - claim from floor to raf - ter, All are wel - come,

All are wel - come, All - are wel - come in this place._____
All are wel - come, All are wel - come in this place._____
All are wel - come, All are wel - come in this place._____

Let us

Benediction

Benediction response

Draw the Circle Wide

Gordon Light

Choir and Congregation

Mark A. Miller

introduction

refrain

Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle

wide. Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. No-one stands a-lone, we'll stand side by

side. Draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the wide. Draw the

cir - cle wide, draw it wid-er still. Let this be our song; No-one stands a-lone. Stand-ing

side by side, draw the cir - cle, draw the cir - cle wide. Draw the back to refrain

Postlude

Sonatina in G Major Op. 20, No. 2

Friedrich Kuhlau
Sandy Nolan, organist

Announcements

A new Grief Support Group has begun meeting weekly, on Thursdays, 2:00-3:30 pm, in the Woodridge Parish House Conference Room.

Please contact Rev.Burton.Bagby.Grose@gmail.com if you have questions or would like more information.

The Woodridge Golf Outing will be **Saturday, October 7,**
12:30 PM start time at Midville Golf Club, West Warwick, RI

All ages and skill levels are welcome

Contact David Jeffrey for more information: 401 451 0913 or djeffrey15@cox.com

Calling all Woodridge Gardeners: Do you have an overabundance of produce or flowers growing in your garden? Why not bring those extras on Sunday and place them on the table near the beverage on the terrace table where others in the congregation may "purchase" them for a contribution of their choice which will go to the Food Pantry. Any vegetable or flower will be appreciated! No garden in your backyard - why not bring along those extra cookies you made! – a great opportunity to share with our community and give a little to the Food Pantry as well!

Donations of non-perishable food items for the Interfaith Food Pantry continue to be needed and appreciated!

Donations to the Deacons' Fund are invited on this Communion Sunday.

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Ushers: Nancy Quintiliani, Les Steinbrecher,
Lenny Wahl, Lori-Jo Wahl

Stewards: Dianne Cavanaugh, Carol Kinoian,
Gale MacDonald, Eileen Phaneuf

Beverage on the Terrace is generously provided this week by Carmen and Les Steinbrecher.

The flowers Sunday morning are given by Carmen Steinbrecher.

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 on our website.

Our Staff:

<i>Rev. Scott Spencer, Pastor</i>	revscottspencer@gmail.com
<i>Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister</i>	ewvandervort1@gmail.com
<i>Sandy Nolan, Organist</i>	sanolan00@gmail.com
<i>Dan Blackford, Administrative Assistant</i>	

Office hours 9 am-1 pm M-F woodridgechurch@verizon.net

401 942 0662 or 942 0654