

*Welcome to*

Woodridge Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ



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

Worship at 10:00 AM

September 17, 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

*Indescribable with Morning Has Broken*

arr. Carol Tornquist  
Sandy Nolan, organist

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: We gather as a community of all ages.

**All: Let us worship God.**

One: We gather as a community of many different kinds of people.

**All: Let us worship God.**

One: We gather to praise God.

**All: Let us worship God.**

One: We gather to give God thanks.

**All: Let us worship God.**

Scripture Reading: Psalm 31: 1 - 4 (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>In you, O LORD, I seek refuge; do not let me ever be put to shame; in your righteousness deliver me.  
<sup>2</sup>Incline your ear to me; rescue me speedily. Be a rock of refuge for me, a strong fortress to save me.  
<sup>3</sup>You are indeed my rock and my fortress; for your name's sake lead me and guide me,  
<sup>4</sup>take me out of the net that is hidden for me, for you are my refuge.

Prayer of Confession (*responsive*):

O Lord, we ask your forgiveness this day for the ways we can sometimes be mean and uncaring to others.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive us when we put ourselves first before God and others.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive us when we don't help those who need our help.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Forgive us this day by your grace and mercy and love.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Assurance of God's love and forgiveness

Children's Message

Prayer for Church School

Passing of the Peace

Scripture Reading: Matthew 16: 13 - 20 (NRSV)

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup>And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup>He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup>Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Sermon

"Change"

Rev. Scott Spencer

Hymn

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Pilgrim Hymnal #93

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

Anthem

Change My Heart, O God / Search Me, O God

arr. J. Raney  
Woodridge Choir

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

*What a Covenant*

New Century Hymnal #471

Benediction

Benediction response

## Go in Peace

K. E. White

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

Six Variations on a Swiss Song

by Ludwig van Beethoven  
Sandy Nolan, organist

## What's happening @ Woodridge this fall?

### ***Worship highlights ...***

Sept 17: First Sunday school classes of the new church year

Oct 1: World Communion Day with our brothers and sisters of the First Korean Church of RI; lunch follows

Nov 5: All Saints Day – remembering those who have died in our community and in our lives

Nov 19: Interfaith community Thanksgiving service

Dec 3: First Sunday of Advent

### ***Adult Education ...***

Theme: What does the Bible say about forgiveness?

5 Mondays, through Oct. 9 from 7:00 - 8:15 pm (on zoom) – all are welcome even if you have never done something like this before ... questions or to sign up for the class: contact pastor Scott at [revscottspencer@gmail.com](mailto:revscottspencer@gmail.com) or 508 - 838 - 6035.

### ***Sunday School news ...***

We are really excited to begin another year of children and youth ministry with “welcome home Sunday” on Sept 10 and the first class on Sept 17.

Children and youth ministry highlights ...  
by age group

Infants & toddlers: Nursery available each Sunday (staffed by teenagers with adult oversight)

K - 4<sup>th</sup> grades: Sunday school class with experienced and dedicated teachers

5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> grades: Sunday school class with experienced and dedicated teachers

New for this age group: Pastor Scott will offer a ½ hour class after church in October – theme: How to read the Bible for everyday life – regardless of your age – understanding the Bible from beginning to end.

8<sup>th</sup> grade and older: help with worship leadership & in the nursery and in Sunday school

**Choir** rehearsals have begun, Thursday evenings:

6:30 Chimes (sanctuary); 7:15 Choir (Music Room)

The **Prime Time Chimes** (PTC) group rides again!

We will begin rehearsals after the service on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Anyone interested in joining our merry band should contact Bob Quintiliani at 996-1272, or email [trekker1@verizon.net](mailto:trekker1@verizon.net).

*No experience or musical acumen required.*

The Woodridge **Golf Tournament** will be Saturday, Oct. 7; at Midville Golf Club, West Warwick.

Contact David Jeffrey for more information: 401 451 0913 or [djeffrey15@cox.com](mailto:djeffrey15@cox.com)

***The Search Team needs your help!***

Come join us for a potluck lunch after church on **October 15** and tell us what you love about Woodridge Church. *Details coming soon.*

The Woodridge **Holiday Bazaar** will be Saturday, Nov. 11

Sign up to help on the red sanctuary lobby poster; contact Courtney Lombardi for more information.

## Recommendations for healthy worship

With the recent increase in Covid infections and the upcoming flu season, the Worship Team encourages an on-going commitment to the health and safety of our congregation and the wider community.

The Worship Team recommends the following Covid and flu season precautions for the Woodridge church:

- Please stay home if you are sick or experiencing Covid or flu – like symptoms.
- If you feel you were exposed to Covid or are unsure of your symptoms, please consider testing before returning to worship or church activities.
- We remain a “mask optional, mask supportive” community. Please do not feel judged if you choose to wear a mask.
- Please consider keeping up to date on your covid vaccines as well as other seasonal vaccines. If you have questions, please consult your doctor.

If you do stay home from worship, remember that we continue to offer an online option of the service in “real time” at 10 am on Sunday mornings. The service is also recorded and can be viewed through our website at any time during the week.

Overall, please continue the commitment of our community to not only keep ourselves safe, but others around us safe as well.

Thank you.

## Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Rachael Pine

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

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

Beverage on the Terrace (or in Fellowship Hall) is generously provided this week by Lori-Jo Wahl.

The flowers this morning are given by  
Lori-Jo Wahl in celebration of her husband, Lenny's birthday.

### ***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

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