

*Welcome to*

Woodridge Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

April 26, 2026

[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.

*\* All who are able, please stand*



Gathering Music

Let Your Spirits Rise

R. F. Quintiliani (2026)  
Prime Time Chimers

Welcome and Church Life

Call to Worship

One: Church, where do you see God?

**All: We see God in the wide reach of sky; in the towering height of mountains, in the depths of the sea and in the vividness of flowers.**

One: Church, where else do you see God?

**All: We see God in early morning sunrises, in the quiet after a snow, in the reaching of rivers and tributaries, and in the stars that light the night.**

One: And in your seeing, what do you know?

**All: We know that God is here, and we know that God is good.**

One: Let us worship the God of creation!

**All: Let us worship our with-us God.**

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**All: Creator God, we have lost our way.**

One: In the beginning, humanity was instructed to care for creation. However, in pursuit of our own wealth and efficiency, we have done the opposite.

**All: The oceans are heavy with plastic. The ice caps are melting by the hour. Animals and plants are treated as a means to an end. Corporations fill the atmosphere with pollution. Policies and practices are slow to change.**

One: Forgive us, O God. Bring us back to the garden.

**All: Bring us back to the garden.**

One: Fill our hearts with compassion for your world.

**All: Show us where we can make a difference, and help us to see your fingerprints in every glimpse of the natural world.**

One: With hope in our hearts for a better day, we pray:

**All Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

One: Just as flowers that bloom after the fire, there is nothing that God cannot redeem.

**All: We are known. We are loved. We are made new.**

One: So may we roll up our sleeves and get our hands dirty

**All: with the work of justice,**

One: with the work of compassion,

**All: with the work of mercy.**

One: Thanks be to God for this new day!

**All: Alleluia! Amen.**

\*Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth NCH #28

Children's Message

Earth Day Lessons and Carols

The Gift of Creation: Genesis 1 *Children of God Storybook Bible*  
Job 12:7-10, *NRSVue*  
Psalm 148:1-10, *NRSVue*

\*Hymn of Praise: God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale NCH #32

The Poetry of the Earth:

“Nature is what we see” — Emily Dickinson

“The Clearing Rests in Song and Shade” — Wendell Berry

“Wild Geese” — Mary Oliver

“The Peace of Wild Things” — Wendell Berry

\*Hymn of Wonder: Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works NCH #3

The Covenant of Care: Genesis 9:8-17<sub>NRSVUE</sub>

<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” <sup>12</sup> God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup> I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup> When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” <sup>17</sup> God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

Passing of the Peace

\*Hymn of all Creation: To You, O God, All Creatures Sing (v. 1-4) NCH #17

Voices of Faith & Creation: Thérèse of Lisieux  
Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew  
Archbishop Desmond Tutu  
Robin Wall Kimmerer

\*Hymn of Commitment: Touch the Earth Lightly (vs. 1,3,4) NCH #569

Pastoral Prayer — Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

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, forever. Amen.

Anthem Morning has broken arranged Larry Sue  
Shyanne Slinko - piano  
Woodridge Choir

Doxology Doxology (Old 100th) NCH #780

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**Life Giver and Sustainer, our gratitude for you knows no end. From starry skies to purple sunsets, from weeping willows to fireflies, from babbling brooks, to flitting hummingbirds, you have gifted us with so much. So today, as an act of gratitude, we draw close to you with both our prayers and our offerings. Creator God, we give you our tithes and offerings. And we pray that you might use these tithes, offerings, and loose change to care for your creation. Use our gifts to do some good here. With full hearts and hopeful spirits, we give, we pray, we turn it all over to you. Amen.**

\*Hymn: Forward through the Ages NCH #377

Benediction

Benediction Response Halleluja NCH #236

Postlude Dona Nobis Pacem Larry Sue  
Shyanne Slinko - piano

## Announcements

**Worshiping with children/youth or new to our church?** Welcome! Scan this QR code to find our Child and Family Information page to learn about things like worship resources, Sunday School/nursery, and where to find bathrooms/changing tables.



**Eat Out & Raise Money for Woodridge** This last restaurant in this first series has designated April 29, 2026 (changed due to a conflict) as Woodridge Church day and will donate to Woodridge Church 15 percent of the total checks paid by diners who give or show our flyer to their server that day The restaurant flyer will be sent out via the Woodridge Word and is available in the Narthex. Make sure your flyer shows the **04/29/26** date. Coming up next:

***April 29 - The Big Cheese and Pub at 606 Reservoir Ave Cranston***

**A Walk to Connect** with each other and nature. May 9, 2026 @ 10 am (1 hour). Queens River Preserve, 40 School Landwoods Rd. Exeter, RI 02822. Dogs must be leashed, and dress appropriately for tics.

**The Annual Stamp Farm Plant Sale** will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2026 from 9am to 5pm. They are located at 219 Comstock Parkway, and offer a wide selection of annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, and hanging baskets. Be sure to mention **“Woodridge Church”** when you pay so that a portion of the proceeds will go to Woodridge Church. *If you need more information, feel free to ask Deb Therrien.*

**Bobby Jo Valentine** Heart – opening, award winning folk/pop June 5<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm “Catchy songs with intelligent, thoughtful lyrics, in the tradition of Bob Dylan, Cat Stevens, and Bruce Hornsby.” – Stephen Schwartz, Tony award-winning creator of Godspell, Wicked, and Pippin

## Worship Ministers for Today’s Service

Liturgist: Carmen Steinbrecher

Ushers: Carmen Steinbrecher, Les Steinbrecher, Rebecca Rotondo, Sharon Albert

Stewards: Courtney Lombardi, Carmen Steinbrecher John Chin, Rebecca Rotondo

The flowers on the altar this Sunday are given by  
The Dillon Family  
In celebration of Lily’s 15<sup>th</sup> birthday

Coffee, Juice, and snacks in Fellowship Hall following Worship are provided by Executive Board

### Our Staff:

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley, Pastor  
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