

# Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ



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

Worship at 10:00 AM Aug. 10, 2025

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

Allegro

W. A. Mozart  
Sandy Nolan - piano

## Welcome & Church Life

Good morning and welcome to the worship of God here at Woodridge Congregational, United Church of Christ. Welcome to families. Welcome to children. Welcome to partners and spouses. Welcome to you who have come alone. Welcome to you all who are worshipping with us here in this space and welcome to you who are worshipping with us online. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation which means that we welcome you, in the fullness of who you are, which means that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are very welcome here. You are all invited to join us for a time of fellowship and refreshment after our service outside on the patio for our summer Beverage on the Terrace fellowship.

We are blessed this morning to welcome Rev. Sharon Hope as our guest preacher and worship leader. This is a special reunion for us at Woodridge...Sharon served as our pastor from the summer of 2002 until the fall of 2008. Welcome back to Woodridge, Sharon and thank you for being with us this morning while Pastor Aidan is on vacation.

Church office will be closed Aug. 07<sup>th</sup> through Aug. 12<sup>th</sup>.

Summer book read — "Braiding Sweetgrass" by Robin Wall Kimmerer — discussion will follow worship on Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> — (there is one copy in the church office)

### Call to Worship

One: From the rising to the setting sun,

**All: God summons us.**

One: In the perfect beauty all around us,

**All: God brightens our hearts.**

One: When we worship with acts of love and mercy,

**All: God is pleased to give us the kingdom.**

One: Come! Let justice and righteousness be our worship.

### Opening Prayer (unison)

**Lord of light and life, you have called us this day to open our hearts, our minds, our spirits to hear your words of encouragement, healing, and hope. Give us patience and willingness to serve you in all that we do. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.**

\* Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy NCH #277

### Passing of the Peace

Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16(NRSVUE)

11 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. <sup>3</sup> By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. <sup>8</sup> By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. <sup>9</sup> By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents,

as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. <sup>10</sup> For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. <sup>11</sup> By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised. <sup>12</sup> Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore." <sup>13</sup> All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, <sup>14</sup> for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. <sup>15</sup> If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. <sup>16</sup> But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Sermon Rev. Sharon Hope

\*Hymn: All My Hope on God is Founded NCH #408

### 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.

Offertory Tis so sweet to Trust in Jesus in Christ Alone  
(My Heart is Found) Carol Tornquist  
Sandy Nolan - piano

\*Doxology: Praise God from Whom NCH#779  
all Blessings Flow

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**God of grace and God of glory, transform these gifts into vessels of your love and mercy. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may our offering bring treasure from above. May these gifts bring justice and righteousness to your children everywhere. Amen.**

\*Hymn: The Church of Christ, in Every Age NCH #306

Benediction

\*Benediction Response: Amen NCH # 812

Postlude The Crusaders John Troutman  
Sandy Nolan - piano

## Announcements

**Beverage on the Terrace.** Please see the signup sheet in the Narthex. This involves setting up the card table outside the entry doors with refreshments usually juice or ice tea and maybe some cookies or brownies. See Courtney Lombardi or Carol Kinoian for more information.

**Holiday Bazaar** Anyone interested in helping this year please come to the meeting on August 17, 2025 following worship in the Conference Room to discuss plans for the 2025 **Holiday Bazaar**.

**The Church Office is closed** from Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> through Aug.12<sup>th</sup>. If there is a pastoral emergency, Pastor Aidan can be reached by email: [aidan@woodridgechurchri.org](mailto:aidan@woodridgechurchri.org)

**Summer Book Read – Braiding Sweetgrass** This summer you are invited to read “Braiding Sweetgrass” by Robin Wall Kimmerer. The book is beautifully written and offers many thought-provoking illustrations for how the natural world can teach us to live more abundantly. We will read the book independently and gather for a discussion in the Music Room after worship on **Sunday, August 24th**. “Braiding Sweetgrass” is widely available in bookstores and in wide circulation in the Rhode Island library system. One copy is still available in the church office.

### **Confirmation Class 2025-2026**

All youth in grades 9 and above are invited to join our Confirmation class beginning in September. Confirmation is the affirmation of baptism. During the confirmation program, confirmands will explore their faith, the traditions of the Christian church, the Bible, and what it means to be a person of faith in authentic ways as teens. Please share this opportunity with friends and family in our community who have confirmation aged youth, even if they aren't currently members of Woodridge. Deadline to sign up is August 31st. More information (including a tentative schedule) can be found in the Woodridge Word.

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

Liturgist: Carmen Steinbrecher

Ushers: Nancy Quintiliani, Martha Ryan,  
Lori-Jo Wahl, Lenny Wahl

Stewards: Gale MacDonald, Dianne Cavanaugh,  
Eileen Phaneuf, Deb DiChiara

Beverage on the Terrace is supplied by  
The Grilo Family

### **Our Staff:**

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley, Pastor  
[aidan@woodridgechurchri.org](mailto:aidan@woodridgechurchri.org)

Sandy Nolan, Organist  
[sanolan00@gmail.com](mailto:sanolan00@gmail.com)

Barbara Stifano, Administrative Assistant  
Summer Office hours 8:30am – 1:30pm M-Thrs  
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