

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ



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

Worship at 10:00 AM Aug. 31, 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.

**All who are able, please stand*

Gathering

Adieu to the Piano Ludwig van Beethoven
Sandy Nolan - piano

Welcome & Church Life

Call to Worship

- One: Jesus said, "Love one another, even as I have loved you."
All: Love is more powerful than fear; it is mightier than hatred.
One: Let the love which God has lavished upon us be poured out to those in need.
All: Help us, O Lord, to witness to you by the ways in which we care for others.
One: Remind us, Lord, that we are called to be your disciples.
All: As we worship this morning, heal our hearts and spirits and prepare us for service. Amen.

Opening Prayer (unison)

In the face of all our realities: we are the people who heal each other, who grow strong together, who name the truth, who know what it means to live in community, moving toward a common dream for a new heaven and a new earth. In the power of the love of God our Creator, the company of Jesus Christ, and the leading of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Hymn:** As We Gather at Your Table NCH #332

Passing of the Peace

Baptism of Kennedi Jones and Josef Jones

LITANY OF BAPTISM

Pastor: We are gathered to present these children of God to the church and to dedicate them to God. What can we affirm about them?

People: That they are children of God and made in the image of God.

Pastor: As they grow in our congregation, how will they know that they are a child of God, made in God's image?

People: We will give them our love and include them in the Life and ministries of this church.

Pastor: How will they learn of the Christian faith?

People: Through our teaching and the example of our lives. We will tell them about Abraham, the father of our faith; about Sarah, the mother of Isaac; about Moses and Miriam who led our ancestors out of bondage; about Ruth's faithfulness; about the Jewish hope for a messiah; about Mary and Joseph's openness to mystery; about our Savior, Jesus; and about the history of the Church as the people of God.

Pastor: And what, in turn, will we expect of them?

People: We look forward to sitting with them at the Lord's Table, sharing with them the costs and joys of discipleship, learning and growing with them in the Christian pilgrimage, and declaring with one voice our faith in God and God's son, Jesus.

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

QUESTIONS OF THE CONGREGATION

Representative: And do you, the congregation of Woodridge Congregational Church, pledge to work toward creating and maintaining a nurturing and challenging Christian environment for these children of God?

People: We do, for they belong to us as well.

Representative: Then, may God be with us.

People: God help us. Amen.

THE PRAYER AND ACT OF BAPTISM

RENEWAL OF THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Pastor: May the Eternal God, who in Christ has given us new birth by water and the Spirit, now give us the grace we need to fulfill what we have promised.

People: Let us be faithful to our Savior Christ, for ever and ever.

CONGREGATIONAL WELCOME

Representative: Now, with joyful hearts let us welcome the newest members of the body of Christ:

People: We rejoice in God's empowering love, freely given To each and all. We welcome you, Kennedi and Jo, Newly baptized, into the loving embrace of our Church which is called the Body of Christ. We promise to pray for you, to seek the depths of faith with you, to support you, and to love you. We covenant with you to love God with all our hearts, minds, souls, and strength, and our neighbors as ourselves. In this way we shall learn from one another, grow stronger, and more often be faithful to God as servants to all people. So be it!

*Sending Hymn: Child of Blessing, Child of Promise NCH #325 (vss. 1 & 3)

Scripture: Luke 14:1,7-14(NRSVUE)

One Sabbath, when Jesus went to eat in the house of a prominent Pharisee, he was being carefully watched. ⁷ When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. ⁸ "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host ⁹ If so, the host who invited both of you will come and say to you, 'Give this person your seat.' Then, humiliated, you will have to take the least important place. ¹⁰ But when you are invited, take the lowest place,

so that when your host comes, he will say to you, 'Friend, move up to a better place.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all the other guests. ¹¹ For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."¹² He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. ¹³ But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. ¹⁴ And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

Sermon Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant NCH #539

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 Under His Wings Ira Sankey
Arr. Don Wyrzten
Bob Ryan –flugelhorn

Doxology Doxology NCH #779

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

You free us, O God, from self-interest and folly. You bring us into a land of choicest wheat and sweetest honey. As we return a portion of these gifts to you, may we extend the banquet of your love to all—especially all those who suffer and are forgotten. May our offering bring healing and light to a world filled with anguish and despair. Amen.

*Hymn: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love NCH #498
(vss. 1-3)

Benediction

*Benediction Response: Amen NCH #812

Postlude Come Thou Almighty King
Music by Felice de Giandini
Sandy Nolan - organ

Announcements

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 today, August 31st. More information (including a tentative schedule) can be found in the Woodridge Word.

Rally Day is Next Sunday, Sept. 7, 2025 We celebrate the "Blessing of the Bags" in worship, sign up for Sunday School, and play games and enjoy ice cream and popsicles outside after the service. Remember to bring your bags (backpacks, lunchboxes, diaper bags, work bags, etc.) with you next Sunday.

Toiletries Collection

Collaboration with MAE Organization

From now through 09/14/2025 we will be collecting toiletries for people here in RI that are "Mostly Unhoused" or "Housing and Food Insecure." Our goal is: THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

We are collecting travel sized and full-sized toiletries:

Soap, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Mouthwash, Deodorant, Powder (foot or medicated), Dry Shampoo, Face and Body Wipes, Hand/ Body Lotion, Tissue Packs, Band Aids, Mini/Maxi Pads, Tampons, Laundry Detergent Sheets, Comb/ Hair Brush, Floss,

Lip Balm, Individual Trail Mix or Snack Bars (to be dispensed with the toiletries at a MAE feeding location TBD)

In addition to these items **"SOCKS"** are the biggest need.

Lists are available in the Narthex for you to take for your shopping convenience.

There is a box in the Narthex for you to place your donated items.

Woodridge Family Bowling Night will be rescheduled to mid September with a date to be determined.

Service of Installation for Pastor Aidan - 9.21.25 @ 2 PM

Join us at 2 PM on Sunday, September 21st for the Service of Installation of Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley to Woodridge Congregational Church. It is a moment to celebrate our mutual ministries here at Woodridge, welcome guests from the RI Association of the SNEUCC, and of course, have cake!

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Frank Toti

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

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

Beverage on the Terrace is supplied by
Carol & Ken Kinoian

The flowers on the altar this week are given by
Steven Pennell & Frank Toti in memory of
Manny Diamonte

Our Staff:

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