

*Welcome to*

Woodridge Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

December 21, 2025

[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

Christmas Time is Here

Vince Guaraldi (1965)  
The Prime Time Chimers

Welcome & Church Life

Call to Worship

One: In a world full of fear, where do you see the presence of love?

**All: We see love all around us. We see love when people hold open the door. We see love in a warm embrace, a homemade casserole, a phone call after a long day. We see love in random acts of kindness and intentional acts of empathy. We see love all around us.**

One: You are right. Even in a fearful world, love is all around us. Today we light the candle of love as a reminder of this good news. May this flicker of light help us remember that even in a fearful world, love is here. Love is world-changing. Love is shining bright. We only have to look for it.  
(*Love candle is lit*)

**All: Thanks be to God for a love like that! Amen.**

\*Advent Response

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (vs. 6)

NCH #116

Opening Prayer (unison)

**In this season of love, hope, and family, grant us joy and peace this day. You offered signs to Joseph and Mary long ago. May your light shine on us here, that we might understand the signs in our lives. We come with open hearts and minds to hear of your love coming into the world. We come to hear of a young woman with child, a foster father with trust in God, a match you made in heaven to shepherd a tiny boy to his destiny. Holy God, show us your peace as we make ready for your light in the world!**

\*Hymn:

NCH #131

## Passing of the Peace

Scripture:

Matthew 1:18-25<sup>NRSVUE</sup>

<sup>18</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

## Meditation

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

\*Hymn:

## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

NCH #127

## 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

# O Holy Night

John Sullivan Dwight  
Sandy Nolan - piano

\*Advent Doxology

## Advent Doxology

Sussex Carol - English

Musical score for a vocal part, likely a soprano or alto, in G major (one flat). The score is divided into four systems, each with a measure number (5, 9, 13) at the beginning. The lyrics are in English and describe the glory of God.

5 Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow, Praise God all crea - tures  
 here be - low, Praise God a - bove ye heav - en ly host, Praise Fath - er, Son\_ and  
 9 Ho - ly Ghost. Glo - ry to God\_ and peace to all,  
 13 Now and for - - - ev - er more\_ A - men!

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Lord of Heaven, accept these gifts from our hearts, that they may fulfill the purposes of your people. As Christ’s light shines upon us, we rejoice in the opportunity to share our abundance with others. Bless these offerings to the Christ child and to our resurrected Lord. Amen.

Musical Interlude

The Nativity Story

*All are welcome to remain seated and sing the first verse of the following carols all found in the Pilgrim Hymnal between each Nativity “scene”*

*O Come, All Ye Faithful (P132)  
The First Nowell (P141)  
Angels We Have Heard on High (P116)  
What Child is This (P140)  
O Little Town of Bethlehem (P134)*

Benediction

<u>Benediction Response</u>	Joy to the World (vs. 1)	Pilgrim #130
-----------------------------	--------------------------	--------------

<u>Postlude</u>	Make the Sounds of Praise	Robert J. Hughes Sandy Nolan – organ
-----------------	---------------------------	---

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.



**Advent Mission Project** hosted by Christian Education Team and the children of Woodridge are accepting donations of new unopen diapers and children’s new and slightly used books now through Dec. 28, 2025. Please place your donations in the box in the Narthex. Thank you.

**Upcoming Services:**

12/21/25 at 6PM Blue Christmas Join us for a quiet service of light and reflection as we seek hope in the midst of loss, pain or uncertainty.

12/24/25 at 5PM Christmas Eve Candlelight Service A special and tender service of traditional lessons and carols celebrating the birth of Christ and sharing the light of Christ with one another. This is an especially meaningful service for children and families of all ages.

12/28/25 at 10AM Christmas Breakfast Service Join us for a potluck breakfast (sign-up sheet in the Narthex) worship service in Fellowship Hall on the first Sunday of Christmas. We’ll sing carols, share good food, and have some guided conversation around the morning’s scripture lesson.

01/04/26 at 10AM Epiphany Service in the Sanctuary with Holy Communion

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

Liturgist: Dawn Handrich

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

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

The flowers decorating the church for Christmas are  
given by members and friends of Woodridge  
(see insert)

Beverage and snacks in Fellowship Hall following the service  
is provided by Deb Moretti and friends

### **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  
Office hours 9am – 1pm M-F [woodridgechurch@verizon.net](mailto:woodridgechurch@verizon.net)  
401-942-0662 or 401-942-0654