

*Welcome to*

Woodridge Congregational Church  
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

February 2, 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

Chorale Prelude on "Rathbun"

Homer Whitford

based on the tune by Ithmar Conkey

Sandy Nolan - organ

Welcome & Church Life

Call to Worship

**One:** Children of God, we come to worship today with expectations: how we expect to feel, what we expect to experience, songs we expect to sing, or prayers we expect to pray. We find comfort in the familiar.

**All: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.**

**One:** Sometimes what feels familiar grows stale. We stop noticing the power of our prayers. We hear but don't listen to the Word. We sing without letting the music seep into our hearts. Yet, God is still here, moving and working among us.

**All: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.**

**One:** We may meet God in a familiar voice speaking a hard word, in a song we love that pierces our hearts, in a prayer that we receive in a new way. Because God is here, moving and working among us.

**All: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here.**

**One:** Children of God, come! Let us worship, ready to embrace God's Word already at work among us, even when we are challenged to recognize God in the familiar and unfamiliar alike.

**All: We come to worship, expecting God to meet us here. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Prayer of Confession (unison)

**God Who Knows Us, we pray that you form and shape us anew. Remind us who we are and draw us back to you. Transform us in love, correct us with compassion, and lead us with clarity into the paths of righteousness, truth, and peace. Forgive us for the ways that we reject your presence, your guidance, and your will. Redeem and restore us as your beloved creation and active citizens of your kingdom. In Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

\*Hymn: How Firm a Foundation (vs. 1-3) NCH #407

Scripture: Psalm 71:1-6(NRSV)

<sup>1</sup>In you, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. <sup>2</sup>In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me; incline your ear to me and save me. <sup>3</sup>Be to me a rock of refuge, a strong fortress, to save me, for you are my rock and my fortress. <sup>4</sup>Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked, from the grasp of the unjust and cruel. <sup>5</sup>For you, O Lord, are my hope, my trust, O Lord, from my youth. <sup>6</sup>Upon you I have leaned from my birth; it was you who took me from my mother's womb. My praise is continually of you.

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13(NRSV)

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. <sup>2</sup>And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. <sup>3</sup>If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. <sup>4</sup>Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant <sup>5</sup>or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; <sup>6</sup>it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. <sup>7</sup>It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. <sup>8</sup>Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. <sup>9</sup>For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; <sup>10</sup>but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. <sup>11</sup>When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. <sup>12</sup>For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. <sup>13</sup>And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

Meditation Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

\*Hymn: We'll Understand It Better By and By NCH #444

Prayer Concerns and Celebrations — Pastoral Prayer

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.

Offertory Steal Away to Jesus Composed by Wallace Willis and his daughter Minerva Willis before 1862 Woodridge Choir

\*Doxology Thank You, Lord African American Melody

sing 2x

Thank you, Lord, thank you, Lord,

5  
thank you Lord, I just want to thank you Lord.

Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

**Bless these gifts, O God, with your love, your strength, and your presence. May the ministries this offering supports be a sign of your love, strength, and presence in the world. Amen.**

\*Hymn of Preparation: Let Us Break Bread Together Pilgrim #336

Holy Communion

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper**

*Invitation to the Table  
Prayer of Consecration  
Bread and Cup*

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

**God, we thank you for uniting us in the body of Christ and by this meal filling us with joy and hope. Grant that in the days ahead our lips which have sung your praises may speak the truth, our eyes which have seen your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world, our hands which have held this loaf and cup may be active in your service. We ask it in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

\*Hymn:

**This Little Light of Mine**

African American Spiritual

verse 2 This little joy of mine  
verse 3 This little peace  
verse 4 Everywhere I go

verse 1 This lit-tle light of mine, \_\_\_ I'm gon-na let it shine. \_\_\_ This lit-tle light of mine,

\_\_\_ I'm gon-na let it shine. \_\_\_ This lit-tle light of mine, \_\_\_

I'm gon-na let it shine \_\_\_ let it shine, \_\_\_ let it shine, \_\_\_ let it shine. \_\_\_

Benediction

\*Benediction Response

sing 3 times

**Amen**

African American Spiritual

A - men. A - men. A - men, A - men, A - men.

Postlude

Gavotte K.10

W. A. Mozart  
Sandy Nolan - organ

## Announcements

The enclosed envelope may be used to make a gift to the **Deacon's Fund**, assisting Woodridge family and community members with emergency needs. Thank you.

### **February Faith and Film** : Hidden Figures : Tues. 2.11.25 @ 6:30 PM

Each month, we explore themes and aspects of our faith by engaging the storytelling of film. This February, in honor of Black History Month, we will gather on Zoom on Tuesday, February 11th at 6:30 PM to discuss the 2016 movie, Hidden Figures, directed by Theodore Melfi. Zoom Link : <https://tinyurl.com/mr45kd2a>

**Thank you** for your continuing donations of non-perishable food items to the Interfaith Food Pantry – in the narthex basket or the box outside the Jackson Road office entrance. **Please** consider donating the following items during the cold months of winter: Hot instant cereal individual packs in boxes, Oatmeal, Hot soup individual packs (Lipton or store brand), Tea, and Hot chocolate. Also there is a low supply of Peanut butter, Instant mashed potatoes, and Boxed milk, (liquid and powder).

**We are still looking for people to help with the Livestream Team!** If you are interested in sitting in the balcony during worship once a month and would like to learn how to operate the camera and computer and generate our livestream of the worship service, please contact Bob Ryan ([bobby.ryan@verizon.net](mailto:bobby.ryan@verizon.net) or see him at church) or Jay Bombardier ([firebombjr@gmail.com](mailto:firebombjr@gmail.com) or see him at church). Thank you very much!

**The Grief Support Group** Meets Thursday afternoons, 2:00 – 3:30 pm in the Conference Room of the church. Access is via the Jackson Road entrance. This gathering is for those who have experienced the loss of a loved one. For more information, please contact the facilitator, Rev. Burton Bagby-Grose at [bbagbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org](mailto:bbagbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org)

**Quilty Pleasures Quilt Guild** has resumed meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month 6-9pm. All experiences WELCOME. For questions contact: [RPloettner@gmail.com](mailto:RPloettner@gmail.com)

## Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Deborah DiChiara

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

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

Communion is prepared by  
Carol Kinoian and Sharon Albert

The flowers this Sunday are given by Nancy Quintiliani  
in celebration of Bob's birthday.

Executive Board members are supplying coffee and goodies  
For the month of February

### **Our Staff:**

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

Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister  
[ewvandervort1@gmail.com](mailto:ewvandervort1@gmail.com)

Sandy Nolan, Organist  
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