

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

February 23, 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

Welcome & Church Life

Call to Worship

One: Take delight in the Lord and receive the desires of your heart.
All: We will bring a generosity of spirit and sing the harmony of mercy.
One: The meek shall inherit the land and rejoice in God's love.
All: We praise the Lord of mercy, pouring it out for all.
One: Do good and trust the Lord. Love first; forgive first; give first.
All: We come to worship, to heed the Word, and to grow in faith and love.

Opening Prayer (unison)

Holy One, we come together to pause, pray, and praise. Be with us in this place, that we may touch your mercy. You provide for us; help us claim the power of your love for our lives. Help us to measure out grace, shaking it together with forgiveness and give them to others as you would have us do. Amen.

*Hymn:

Woke Up this Morning

NCH #85

Scripture

Genesis 45:3-11,15 (NRSV)

³Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. ⁴Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. ⁵And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. ⁶For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are

five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. ⁷God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. ⁸So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. ⁹Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. ¹⁰You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. ¹¹I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' ¹⁵And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

Marsha Southard

*Sending Hymn:

Go, My Children, with My Blessing (v. 1)
(Children may leave for Sunday School)

NCH #82

Scripture:

Luke 6:27-38 (NRSV)

²⁷"But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, ²⁸bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. ²⁹If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. ³⁰Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. ³¹Do to others as you would have them do to you. ³²"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. ³³If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. ³⁴If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. ³⁵But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. ³⁶Be merciful, just as

your Father is merciful. ³⁷"Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; ³⁸give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Sermon

Mike Corey

*Hymn:

All My Hope on God is Founded

NCH #408

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.

Anthem

It's the Old Ship of Zion

African American Spiritual
Woodridge Choir

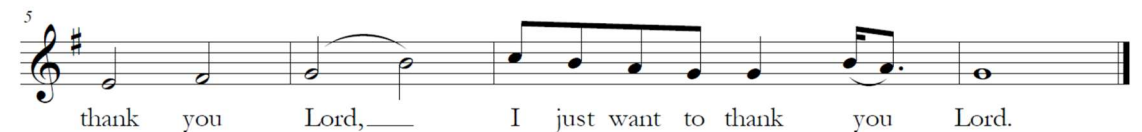
*Doxology

Thank You, Lord

(sing 2x)

African American Melody

sing 2x



Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

As we offer our treasure and hearts to you, O God, may they be used to pass on the promise of hope, of peace, of life, of community to all in need of your gifts and presence in their lives. Amen.

*Hymn: Now Thank We all Our God NCH #419

Benediction

*Benediction Response (sing 3x)

Amen

African American Spiritual



Postlude

Announcements

Pastor Aidan is on vacation from 02/17/25 through 02/24/25. If there is a pastoral emergency you may reach him on his cell phone (339-927-4744)

The church office will be closed on Monday, February 24, 2025

Respiratory illnesses and the flu have ticked up in Rhode Island. Reminder from the Worship Team: If you have symptoms or don't feel well, please stay home and join in Sunday worship via our live-stream. If you attend in person and would feel more comfortable wearing a mask, please do so. We try to have masks available for anyone who would like one. And we encourage all who are eligible to get appropriate vaccines, advised by their physician. Stay safe!

**Facing Poverty in Good Faith
Tuesday, February 25, 7:00 PM, Temple Sinai**

What do religions teach about poverty? Do we think of poverty as being inevitable? Is our goal to eliminate poverty, to reduce it, or just to ameliorate suffering? Is the obligation to address poverty on us as individuals, or on society as a whole? Clergy from a variety of religious traditions will gather for a panel discussion followed by real conversations among people of different faiths about facing poverty. Pastor Aidan will be attending and would love to share this great event with Woodridge friends.

Irish Italian Potluck – Mark your calendars for March 15, 2025 Fellowship Hall 5 pm. This is a “Throw Back” Potluck. Polish off the plates, pull out your best Irish or Italian shirt, make a dish you love and want to share. Bring a friend, bring family, bring yourself and celebrate the Saints of March. See the sign up sheet on the poster in the Narthex. Hope to see you there!

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 at bobby.ryan@verizon.net or see him at church or Jay Bombardier at 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@vnaacarenewengland.org

Quilty pleasures Quilt Guild Meets 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the Month 6-9pm. Cost is \$5.00 to attend applied to annual dues. All experiences WELCOME, New or Advanced. For questions contact: RPloettner@gmail.com

If church services have to be cancelled due to snow and bad weather ... an email will go out on the same list as the weekly newsletter no later than between 7 and 8 am on Sunday morning (or earlier if a decision can be made). In addition, those with assigned roles, including the music ministry, will be notified via a separate email. Finally, feel free to contact pastor Aidan with any additional questions by email, aidan@woodridgechurchri.org. Thank you for your cooperation. As always, we urge people to use caution and please do not attend worship if you feel it is not safe to do so.

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Jay Bombardier Jr.

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

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

For the month of February, coffee and pastry is
supplied by the Executive Board

Our Staff:

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley, Pastor
aidan@woodridgechurchri.org

Eric Van Dervort, Music Minister
ewvandervort1@gmail.com

Sandy Nolan, Organist
sanolan00@gmail.com

Barbara Stifano, Administrative Assistant
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