

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

January 12, 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: When we pass through the cleansing waters of baptism and the troubled waters of our lives, God declares:

All: I will be with you.

One: When we go through the fires that refine us and the fires that threaten our livelihoods, God declares:

All: I will be with you.

One: Even when we travel to the far corners of the earth or down into the depths of our souls, God declares:

All: I will be with you.

One: So come, let us worship God whose love never fails, whose presence never leaves, whose mercies never end.

All: Praise be to God who, in the form of Jesus, waded into the waters of baptism to prove God's solidarity with us! Amen.

Opening Prayer (unison)

God of strength, God of love, surround us with your love. Gather us in as your beloved children. Open our ears to hear your voice. Open our hearts to the power of your transforming love. May your waters of grace pour over us, renewing us for your work in the world. Bless us in this holy time. Amen.

*Hymn

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Lobe den Herren
hymn tune

J. Neander

Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, who rules all cre - a - tion.
 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so won - drous - ly reign - eth,
 Praise to the Lord, who doth pros - per thy work and de - fend thee.

7
 O my soul, wor - ship the well-spring of health and sal - va - tion.
 who as on wings of an ea - gle up - lift - ed, sus - tain - eth.
 Sure - ly God's good - ness and mer - cy here dai - ly a - tend - thee.

13
 All ye who hear, now to God's tem - ple draw near.
 Hast thou not seen? All that is need - ful hath been
 Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do,

18
 Join me in glad ad - o - ra - tion.
 grant - ed in what God or - dain - eth.
 who with great love doth be - friend thee.

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7(NRSV)

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. ²When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. ³For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. ⁴Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. ⁵Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; ⁶I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth— ⁷everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

*Sending Hymn Go, My Children, with My Blessing (verse 1) NCH #82
 (Children may leave for Sunday School)

Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22(NRSV)

¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."
²¹Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, ²²and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

Sermon Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn Take Me to the Water NCH #322

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 Down in the River to Pray Traditional Gospel
 Woodridge Choir

*Doxology

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be -
low; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove ye heav - nly host Cre -
a - tor Christ and Ho - ly Ghost. Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly Spir - it! Al - le -
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

Loving God, you bless us with your love. You know each one of us. We live in confidence and trust, knowing your care for us. We bring these gifts to you, our source of life. Use them, we pray, that others may experience your grace and live free from fear. Amen.

*Hymn

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

NCH #293

Benediction

Benediction Response

Go in Peace

K. E. White

Go in peace and the peace of God be with you this day. Go in peace and the
peace of God be with you al - ways. Cel - e - brate and share the joy! Cel - e - brate new
life! Go in peace and the peace of God be with you al - ways.

Postlude

Announcements

Faith and Film : Monday, January 21st @ 6:30 PM on Zoom — *Selma (2014) PG-13*

Each month, we explore themes and aspects of our faith by engaging the storytelling of film. This January, in honor of MLK Jr. Day, we will gather on Zoom on Tuesday, January 21st at 6:30 PM to discuss the award-winning 2014 movie, *Selma*, directed by Ava DuVernay.

“Although the Civil Rights Act of 1964 legally desegregated the South, discrimination was still rampant in certain areas, making it very difficult for Blacks to register to vote. In 1965, an Alabama city became the battleground in the fight for suffrage. Despite violent opposition, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. (David Oyelowo) and his followers pressed forward on an epic march from Selma to Montgomery, and their efforts culminated with President Lyndon Johnson signing the Voting Rights Act of 1965.”

The Annual Report Meeting will be January 26, 2025 following worship in Fellowship Hall

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 or see him at church) or Jay Bombardier (firebombjr@gmail.com or see him at church). Thank you very much!

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.

WARRANT

The Annual Meeting of Woodridge Congregational United Church of Christ

will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2025, immediately after the worship service at which time the following agenda will be in order:

1. To vote on the 2025 annual budget.
2. To vote on the 2025 Nomination Slate.
3. To discuss any new business that may come before the meeting.

Deborah Therrien, Clerk

Debra A. Moretti, Moderator

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Barbara Stifano

Ushers: Debbie Scipione, Eileen Phaneuf,
Lou Beneduce, Richard Jordan

Stewards: Deb Moretti, Nancy Quintiliani,
Richard Therrien, Deborah Therrien

Coffee and pastry are supplied by the
Christian Education Committee for the month of January

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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