

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

January 19, 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

The Lonesome Valley

arr. Hugo Frey
Sandy Nolan - organ

Welcome & Church Life

Call to Worship

One: Listen, people of God, for the voice of God is calling: "The ultimate measure of a person is not where they stand in moments of comfort and convenience, but where they stand at times of challenge and controversy."¹

All: In difficult times, God calls us to join the movement of courageous truth-tellers.

One: In comfortable times, God calls us to join the movement of silence-breakers.

All: In times of struggle, God calls us to join the movement toward freedom.

One: In times of peace, God calls us to join the movement toward justice.

All: In all times, God calls us to join with the movement of the Spirit.

One: Listen, people of God, for the voice of God is calling:

"Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in."²

All: Let us worship God, listening for the voice that calls us to join the movement of love.

¹ Martin Luther King, Jr. *Strength to Love*, 1963.

² Martin Luther King, Jr. March for Integrated Schools, April 18, 1959.

Opening Prayer (unison)

Faithful God, we come to you from many walks of life. Some of us come after wandering off. Others come sensing that you are as close as their very breath. From our many journeys, welcome us with your love. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, that we might sense your presence in our lives. In joyous gratitude, we pray. Amen.

*Hymn: Joyful Joyful, We Adore Thee NCH #4

Scripture: Isaiah 62:1-5(NRSV)

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. ⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. ⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

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

Scripture: John 2:1-11(NRSV)

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Sermon Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn: There is a Balm in Gilead NCH #553

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 Precious Lord, Take My Hand T. A. Dorsey
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)

Holy One, may our gifts declare your glory and benefit the common good. Receive them with our gratitude for your generosity and the opportunity to participate in your kingdom on earth. Amen.

*Hymn

Lift Every Voice and Sing

NCH #593

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

The Gospel Train

arr. Hugo Frey
Sandy Nolan - organ

Announcements

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

Link: <https://tinyurl.com/enfua2k8>

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

Church Game Night -- Friday, February 6th at 6:30 PM

Bring your favorite board or card game and a snack to share for game night in Fellowship Hall. We'll enjoy a time of fellowship and friendly gaming competition.

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!

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

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: Joe DiPietro

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

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

Christian Education committee is supplying coffee and pastry
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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