

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

March 1, 2026

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*

Prelude

Help Us Accept Each Other

John Ness Beck
Shyanne Slinko - organ

Welcome and Church Life

Call to Worship

One: God calls us to set out in faith.

All: The love of God leads us home.

One: Christ blesses us that we might bless others.

All: The blessings of Christ heal our world.

One: The Holy Spirit strengthens us for the journey.

All: The power of the Spirit sustains and supports us.

One: The One who made heaven and earth meets us here.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God, who delivers people from their suffering, you sent Jesus to show us that our ways are not your ways. You told us to bless the poor, to make peace with our neighbors, to share what we have with others, and to live our faith through quiet actions. Yet we often fail this calling. Forgive us, God, where and when we have slipped into the world's ways of hate, greed, and violence. Guide us into faithfulness once again, for your ways are loving, just, and compassionate. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

*Hymn:

The God of Abraham Praise

NCH #24

Passing of the Peace

Scripture:

John 3:1-17^{NRSVUE}

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus[□] by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”[□] ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You[□] must be born from above.’[□] ⁸The wind[□] blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you[□] do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man.[□] ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Meditation

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn:

Lift High the Cross

NCH #198

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.

Anthem

Lord, Make Us Messengers of Your Peace

Jan Carneghi

Shyanne Slinko - piano

*Doxology

A Lenten Doxology

Tallis Canon

Praise God through - out these for - ty days, Praise
 Christ our Lord whom God did raise, and praise the spir - it
 who im - parts God's love in Christ in - to our hearts.

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

Gracious God, just as you blessed the saints of old when they ventured forth in faith, so now bless us in our living and in our giving. Transform our gifts and offerings into blessings for a weak and weary world, that all may touch your great love. Amen.

*Hymn of Preparation

Come to the Table of Grace

Barbara Hamm

Come to the ta-ble of grace. — Come to the ta-ble of grace. —

— This is God's ta-ble, it's not yours or mine. Come to the ta-ble of grace.

- 2. Come to the table of peace
- 3. Come to the table of love
- 4. Come to the table of hope

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Gracious God, we thank you for these tangible gifts of bread and cup that feed our bodies and nourish our souls. May these blessings of grace be shared, not hoarded. Though we have been fed today at the table, may we still walk away hungry for justice, working for freedom and fullness for all of your creation. Amen.

*Hymn:

It is Well with My Soul

NCH #438

Benediction

*Benediction Response

Part in Peace (1&3)

NCH #78

Postlude

The Power of the Cross
(O to see the Dawn) with
Lift High the Cross

Carol Tornquist
Shyanne Slinko - piano

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.

Our Sunday School children, youth, and families have invited us into a Lenten project to deepen our awareness and support of mental health. You can participate in this Lenten Project by donating items from this list AND/OR a financial contribution toward hosting a community-focused mental health presentation hosted by Woodridge (memo: WISE).
☐ Origami paper ☐ Markers ☐ Scented markers ☐ Crayons ☐ Tempera paint ☐ Tempera paint sticks ☐ Model Magic Clay ☐ Journals (with no staples) ☐ Crosswords (with no staples) ☐ Coloring books (with no staples) ☐ Monetary donations to help us to become a WISE church

It's Back IRISH / ITALIAN Pot Luck See sign up sheet in the Narthex.
March 14, 2026 at 5 pm. Fellowship Hall. Come in full regalia. See you there!!!

Eat Out & Raise Money for Woodridge Church Dine for Donations 2026 is in progress. The following restaurants have designated one day as Woodridge Church day and will donate to Woodridge Church a percentage of the total checks paid by diners who give or show our flyer to their server that day. The rules vary slightly from restaurant to restaurant, but giving the paper flyer to your server always works. Here's the dates that have been set up so far. Make plans with your family and friends and church friends! Additional dates and restaurants will be coming soon! The restaurant flyer will be sent out via the Woodridge Word and distributed in church as each date approaches. Coming up next:

March 10 - Texas Roadhouse at 99 Garfield Ave Cranston
April 22 - The Big Cheese and Pub at 606 Reservoir Ave Cranston

Flyers are available in the Narthex for Texas Road House Dine for Donations

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

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Bob Cole

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

Stewards: Courtney Lombardi, Carmen Steinbrecher,
John Chin, Rebecca Rotondo

Communion is provided and prepared by
Deb DiChiara and Deb Therrien

Our Staff:

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley, Pastor
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Shyanne Slinko, Minister of Music
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