

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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



Worship at 10:00 AM

May 18, 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: From the highest heavens to the deepest seas,

All: let all creation praise the Lord.

One: From the rising sun to the waning moon,

All: let all creatures praise the Lord.

One: From the new heaven and new earth,

All: let everything that draws breath praise the Lord. Come, let us worship.

Opening Prayer (unison)

Ever-dreaming God, come to us now, opening our imaginations to your promise for us, in us, and in all you have made. We pray in the name of your dream made flesh, Jesus the Christ. Amen

Hymn:

Morning Has Broken

see insert

Scripture:

Psalms 148 NRSVUE

1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!
2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host! 3 Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars! 4 Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters
above the heavens! 5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded
and they were created. 6 He established them forever and ever; he fixed their
bounds, which cannot be passed. 7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea
monsters and all deeps, 8 fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his
command! 9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars! 10 Wild animals and
all cattle, creeping things and flying birds! 11 Kings of the earth and all people's
princes and all rulers of the earth! 12 Young men and women alike, old and young
together! 13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is
exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven. 14 He has raised up a horn for his
people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!

Reception of Members:

Affirmation of Baptism

Erin and Jorge Villaverde — JoAnn Paquin — Laurie and Jeff Craig — Artur Pacheco — Michael Caron — Steven Pennell — Leo Smith — Michael Simpson — John Chin

Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Do you believe in God?

I believe in God.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Let us read together the Woodridge Congregational Church covenant as found in our Constitution:

We covenant with one another to seek and respond to the word and the will of God and to walk together in the ways of the Lord made known to us. We believe it is our mission to proclaim our Christian faith by word and action throughout the world; to promote justice and equality for all; to work and to pray for peace; and to strive to eliminate war, poverty, and ignorance, helping our fellow human beings aspire to and achieve a way of life suitable to children of God.

Let us, the members of Woodridge Congregational Church, express our welcome and affirm our mutual ministry in Christ.

We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witness of our risen Savior.

Passing of the Peace

*Sending Hymn:

Go, My Children, with My Blessing (v. 1)

NCH #82

Scripture:

Acts 11:1-18^{NRSVUE}

11 Now the apostles and the brothers and sisters who were in Judea heard that the gentiles had also accepted the word of God. ² So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, ³ saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" ⁴ Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance, I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners, and it came close to me. ⁶ As I looked at it closely, I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. ⁷ I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I replied, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' ⁹ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' ¹⁰ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. ¹² The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; ¹⁴ he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" ¹⁸ When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Sermon

Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn:

All Are Welcome

see insert

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

What Does God Require of You

J. Strathdee
Woodridge Choir

*Doxology

Doxology

1 Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here be -

5 low; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove ye heav - nly

9 host Cre - a - tor Christ and Ho - ly Ghost. Praise the Spir - it, Ho - ly

13 Spir - it! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - - - ia!

Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

God of mystery, you promise us a life of blessedness, if only we would learn to love, as you have loved us. May the gifts we bring before you this day be a sign of our commitment to love one another well. Amen.

*Hymn:

In Christ There is No East or West

NCH #394

Benediction

*Benediction Response

Peace I Leave with You, My Friends (vs. 2)

NCH #249

Postlude

Announcements

New Member Sunday is today, May 18th Followed by a celebration with coffee and cake in Fellowship Hall.

The Annual Stamp Farm Plant Sale is today, Sunday, May 18, from 9am to 5pm. They are located at 219 Comstock Parkway, and offer a wide selection of annuals, perennials, vegetables, herbs, and hanging baskets. Be sure to mention **“Woodridge Church”** when you pay so that a portion of the proceeds will go to Woodridge Church.
If you need more information, feel free to ask Deb Therrien.

Woodridge Church Yard Sale Saturday, May 31 8 AM – 2 PM
Clean out your closets, basements and attics! Starting May 18, bring in your items for the yard sale and leave them on the stage in Fellowship Hall or in the janitor’s room (basement). Large items can be picked up. Volunteers are needed to help during the yard sale. Please call Grant Southard (822-0799) or Rick Therrien (463-6343) with any questions.

Woodridge 75th Anniversary: Mark your Calendars June 8, 2025. It will be held in Fellowship Hall following worship

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).

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: Johathan McDowell

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

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

Membership and Fellowship Team are providing Coffee, Juice, and the cake for New Members Celebration

The flowers on the altar this week are given by
Barbara Stifano in Celebration of granddaughter,
Carmela’s 5th Birthday

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
Office hours 9am – 1pm M-F woodridgechurch@verizon.net
401-942-0662 or 401-942-0654

Morning Has Broken

Gaelic Melody

Morn - ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing,
 Sweet the rain's new - fall sun - lit from heav - en,
 Mine is the sun - light! Mine is the morn - ing

7
 Black - bird has spo - ken, like the first bird.
 like the first dew - fall on the first grass.
 born of the one light E - den saw play!

13
 Praise for the sing - ing, praise for the morn - ing!
 Praise for the sweet - ness of the wet gar - den,
 Praise with e - la - tion, praise ev - ery morn - ing,

19
 Praise for them, spring - ing, fresh from the Word!
 sprung in com - plete - ness where his feet pass.
 God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

All Are Welcome

Marty Haugen

Verse 1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly —
 Verse 2 build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and —
 Verse 3 build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions

4
 live. A — place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 stone, to — heal and strength - en, serve and — teach, and —
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and — claimed as —

7
 hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and vis - sions, rock of
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the stran - ger bear the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of

11
 faith and vault of grace. Here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions,
 im - age of God's face, let us bring an end to fear and dan - ger,
 faith and songs of grace, let this house pro - claim from floor to raf - ter,

15 refrain
 All are wel - come, All are wel - come, All - are wel - come in this place. Let us
 All are wel - come, All are wel - come, All are wel - come in this place. Let us
 All are wel - come, All are wel - come, All are wel - come in this place.