

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

September 14, 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

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Joseph M. Scriven
Sandy Nolan - organ

Welcome & Church Life

One: We come seeking refuge in a world where goodness and good news can feel far away.

All: God is our hope and our refuge.

One: We come searching for safety in a world that often calls foolishness wisdom and wisdom foolishness.

All: God is our hope and our refuge.

One: We come longing for rest in a world that bombards us with all the ways people work against the abundant life and flourishing of their neighbors.

All: God is our hope and our refuge.

One: Come, children of God, to find refuge and hope in God who delivers and restores us.

All: May God teach us and guide us to find refuge and be refuge with and for our neighbors today and every day.

Opening Prayer (unison)

God of heaven and earth, bless us with your mercy and grace. Enter our hearts and make us holy. Be our Shepherd and guide us in your ways, that we might not wander alone. Hear our cries and gather us to yourself, that we may be one with each other, through the power of your Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn:

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

NCH #1

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

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

Scripture: Luke 15:1-10 NRSVUE

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. ⁸ “Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins^[a] and loses one. Doesn’t she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.’ ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

Sermon Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn: Amazing Grace NCH #547

Pastoral Prayer — Prayer Concerns and Celebrations

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.

Offertory

*Doxology	Old 100 th	NCH #780
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Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

Most gracious God, we bring these gifts, as we bring ourselves. You seek us, you gather us together, and in your arms, our lives come together. Bless us and these gifts, that together we may be a blessing and return your glory to you, where it belongs. Amen.

<u>*Hymn</u>	Praise with Joy the World's Creator	NCH #273
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Benediction

<u>Benediction Response</u>	God Be With You (v.1)	NCH #81
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Postlude Sonatina Op. 55, No 1 Allegro Friedrich Kuhlau
Sandy Nolan - piano

Announcements

Worshipping with children/youth or new to our church? Welcome! Scan this QR code to find our Child and Family Information page to learn about things like worship resources, Sunday School/nursery, and where to find bathrooms/changing tables.



HOLIDAY BAZAAR meeting in the Conference room today following Worship.

Toiletries Collection Collaboration with MAE Organization

Here are some numbers for the items donated last week IN ADDITION TO WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE:

Socks 30 pairs, Bar soap 25, Travel size soap 30, Combs 26, Razors 27 (individual)

From now through 09/21/2025 (we've extended the date) we will be collecting toiletries for people here in RI that are "Mostly Unhoused" or "Housing and Food Insecure." Our goal is: THE SKY IS THE LIMIT

We are collecting travel sized and full-sized toiletries:

Soap, Shampoo, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Deodorant, Powder (foot or medicated), Dry Shampoo, Face and Body Wipes, Hand/ Body Lotion, Tissue Packs, Band Aids, Mini/Maxi Pads, Tampons, Laundry Detergent Sheets, Comb/Hair Brush, Floss, Shaving cream, disposable razors, Lip Balm, Individual Trail Mix or Snack Bars (to be dispensed with the toiletries at a MAE feeding location TBD)

In addition to these items **"SOCKS"** are the biggest need.

Lists are available in the Narthex for you to take for your shopping convenience.

There is a box in the Narthex for you to place your donated items. Thank you.

Yard Sale rescheduled for Sept. 20, 2025 8am – 2pm

Due to lack of space to store items and functions booked in Fellowship Hall additional items cannot be dropped off at the church prior to the Yard Sale date. You can bring your items at 8am on the day of the Yard Sale, if you have items to donate. For bigger items you can call Grant Southard at 822-0799 or Rick Therrien 463-6343 to arrange a pick up. ***Volunteers are needed to help with the Yard Sale see Grant or Rick for that also.***

Service of Installation for Pastor Aidan - 9.21.25 @ 2 PM

Join us at 2 PM on Sunday, September 21st for the Service of Installation of Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley to Woodridge Congregational Church. It is a moment to celebrate our mutual ministries here at Woodridge, welcome guests from the RI Association of the SNEUCC, and of course, have cake!

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 cold cereal, canned fruits and veggies, pasta, canned pasta sauce or plastic jars of pasta sauce, soup and canned meat or tuna. Also there is a low supply of Peanut butter, Jelly, Instant mashed potatoes, and Boxed milk, (liquid and powder). ***We could use 1 or 2 more people to help distribute the food at the Interfaith Food Pantry on October 11, 2025.***

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 bbygrose@vnacarenewengland.org

Quilty Pleasures Quilt Guild meets on the 2nd and 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

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Liturgist: Barbara Gloria

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

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

The flowers on the altar are given by Rebecca Rotondo
In memory of Gale James

Beverage on the Terrace provided by
Erin, Jorge, & Mia Villaverde

Our Staff:

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

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