

Welcome to

Woodridge Congregational Church
United Church of Christ

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

Worship at 10:00 AM

November 10, 2024

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: Children of God, take a deep breath. Breathe in the goodness of God's abundance all around you.

All: God's abundance is enough for all that we need.

One: Think of all the things our society calls abundance. Ever-growing bank accounts, possessions galore, status and notoriety—what are these things compared to God's abundance?

All: God's abundance is enough for all that we need.

One: God's abundance notices the poor, the downtrodden, those whose labor and unmet needs fill the coffers of corporations and those who are wealthy beyond measure.

All: God's abundance is enough for all that we need.

One: How, then, will you offer yourself up to God?

All: We will give as people who trust in God's provision, because God's abundance is enough for all that we need.

Opening Prayer (unison)

Lord, we have come to you this day bringing all that we have, our lives, our hopes and dreams, our fears and sorrows. We place these before you in faith and hope, knowing that no matter what has happened you are with us and blessing us. Open our hearts to receive your words and your spirit, that we may find healing and comfort. Open our lives to the wondrous possibilities for service and joy that you offer to us. Ease our minds and spirits that we may hear the words of encouragement and peace this day. Amen.

*Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

NCH # 43

Scripture: Psalm 127^(NRSV)

¹Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord guards the city, the guard keeps watch in vain. ²It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved.

³Sons are indeed a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. ⁴Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth. ⁵Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Passing of the Peace

Children's Message

*Sending Hymn: Go, My Children, with My Blessing (verse 1) see page 6
(Children may leave for Sunday School)

Scripture: Mark 12: 38-44^(NRSV)

³⁸As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation." ⁴¹He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had; all she had to live on."

Sermon Rev. Aidan Myers Kelley

*Hymn: Take My Life, and Let it Be NCH # 448

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.

Anthem There Are Many Ways of Giving see insert

*Doxology Give Thanks

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ his Son.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong" let the poor say "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us" Give thanks! Give thanks!

Prayer of Dedication (unison prayer)

One: Creator of all, the earth is yours, the world and all who live in it.
All: You have entrusted us with gifts— time, talent, energy, money— and asked us to use them to build your kingdom.
One: We bring these gifts you have given, returning your generosity, paying it forward.
All: We offer ourselves, our lives, our hopes and fears, our dollars and our hours. We commit ourselves to work for your world, to love and serve wherever you call.
One: We ask your blessing on this, your church, as we seek to follow you with heart, mind, and soul.
All: Bless also these gifts, our investment in your future, that they may multiply in faith, hope, and love. Amen.

<u>*Hymn</u>	I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me	see insert
<u>Benediction</u>		
<u>Benediction Response</u>	Farewell, Good Friends!	see page 6
<u>Postlude</u>		

Announcements

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. **This year in leu of Thanksgiving Baskets we are planning to do a bigger food distribution at the Food Pantry in December.** Please consider bringing in items that folks could use as part of their Christmas celebration such as boxed potatoes, canned veggies, canned yams, cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, boxed breads (banana, pumpkin, coffee cake) cake and brownie mixes. Boxed pie crust and canned filling.

Seeking Session — Wednesday, November 13, 6-7 PM (Music Room)

During the Holiday Market, Pastor Aidan posted flyers inviting people with questions about where they fit in a church and how the church fits into life today to come to a listening session this Wednesday evening. If you have family or friends who question why they might go to church or if they can go to church if they don't believe X, please share this opportunity to share and listen with them.

New Member Sunday — Next Sunday, November 17th

If you are interested in becoming a formal member of Woodridge, we will welcome new members during our worship service next Sunday. If you would like to join and haven't been in touch with Pastor Aidan, please contact him this week.

November Faith and Film - Monday, November 18 @ 6:30 PM : “Babette’s

Feast” Join your friends from Woodridge as we explore aspects of our faith through the storytelling of film. We'll join together on Zoom on Monday, November 18th at 6:30 PM to discuss the 1987 movie “Babette’s Feast”. The movie, which won the 1987 Oscar for Best Foreign Film, per the Criterion introduction, “is the lovingly layered tale

of a French housekeeper with a mysterious past who brings quiet revolution in the form of one exquisite meal to a circle of starkly pious villagers in late nineteenth-century Denmark.” If you believe in the power of good food, this one is for you! You can find it on HBO Max if you have a subscription, for rent on your favorite service, or request a DVD at the library.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service — Sunday, Nov. 24, 6 PM @ Temple Sinai

Our congregation will join with other communities of faith in Cranston for an interfaith Thanksgiving celebration hosted by Temple Sinai at 6 PM on Sunday, November 24th. Come and enjoy a time of gratitude and fellowship and experience a diverse service of worship.

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

Quilty Pleasures Quilt Guild has resumed meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month 6-9pm. All experiences WELCOME. For questions contact: RPloettner@Gmail.com.

Worship Ministers for Today's Service

Liturgist: Tricia Pardini

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

Stewards: Courtney Lombardi, Carmen Steinbrecher,
Les Steinbrecher, Rebecca Rotondo

The flowers this Sunday are given by
Maureen Brown to celebrate all those who have a November birthday.

For the month of November, Coffee and a
Cornucopia of deliciousness is served in Fellowship Hall after worship
prepared by Pastoral & Staff

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

There Are Many Ways of Giving

tune: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

adapted: Carolyn W. Gillette

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The score is divided into systems, with measure numbers 3, 6, 9, 12, and 15 indicated at the beginning of each system. The lyrics are as follows:

There are man - y ways of shar - ing, but God's
bap - tized in the wa - ters, we've been
blest by gifts you give us, some are

spir - it gives each one. There are dif - ferent ways of
giv - en work to do. When you call your lov - ing
set a - part to lead. Give us Je - sus' love with -

car - ing, It's one God whose work is done. God whose
child - ren, you give gifts for ser - ving you. we
in us as we care for those in need. Give us

gifts are o - ver flow - ing, May we hear you when you
join in cel - e - bra - tion, of the tal - ents you im -
faith to make de - ci - sions, give us joy to share your

call; Keep us ser - ving, keep us grow - ing, for the
part. Bless each bap - tized one's vo - ca - tion, give each
word. Give us u - ni - ty and vi - sion, as we

com - mon a good ser - vant's all. We've been
one - a your church and heart. All are
serve your church and world.

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

1 I'm gon-na live so (live so)
2 I'm gon-na work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
3 I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
4 I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time! (an - y - time!) I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na
I'm gon-na

live so (live so)
work so (work so) God can use me an - y -
pray so (pray so)
sing so (sing so)

where, Lord, an - y - time! (an - y - time!)
(my Lord,)

This African American spiritual has more depth than may at first appear: for people who are bound in slavery to sing about dedicating themselves to God's use shows a profound awareness of God-given self-worth despite circumstances that would deny their human or spiritual value.

TEXT: African American spiritual
MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Wendell P. Whalum, 1984
Music Arr. © Estate of Wendell P. Whalum

I'M GONNA LIVE
Irregular