

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY
Woodridge United Methodist Church
Sunday, February 1st, 2026 4th Sunday after Epiphany

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Bell Choir

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Martine: What does the Lord require of us?

Many Voices: To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

Martine: With what shall we come before the Lord?

Many Voices: With speech that is gentle, and words that build up.

Martine: How shall we live our faith?

Many Voices: With actions that bring peace and works that lift up the lowly.

Martine: Come and worship God in spirit and in truth.

Many Voices: We come to worship God with our voices and our lives. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Be Thou My Vision"

UMH #451

*The Apostle's Creed

UMH #881

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Opening Prayer

Martine: Redeeming God, you come to us in Christ to rescue us from bondage and lead us out of captivity. Guide us by the wisdom of the cross, and teach us to live lives of justice, love, and holiness. As we call upon your name and seek to do what is right, free our hearts from all guile and deceit. May we truly be known as peacemakers—the blessed children of God.

All: Amen.

Blessing Our Children

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

Bell Choir

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: God of Justice and Mercy, you do not ask for thousands of offerings or rivers of

oil, only that we live with love, humility, and a hunger for what is right. Accept these gifts we bring—not as bargaining chips, but as signs of our desire to follow you. Use them and us to pour out kindness where the world is aching, to walk alongside the weary, and to bring your healing presence into troubled places. May our giving be our “yes” to your call, our response to your grace, and our witness to your hope. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings

New Testament Lesson
Gospel Lesson

1 Corinthians 1: 20-25, 27-31 (*NRSVue*)
Matthew 5:1-12 (*NRSVue*)

Martine: The Word of God for the People of God.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

“Since Jesus Came into My Heart” (*verses 1 & 3*)

TFWS #2140

Proclaiming

“Upside-Down Kingdom”

Pastor Dave

Praying

Joys & Concerns
Prayers for the People

Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor Dave: All who love Christ and seek peace with one another, all who know the power of Christ’s forgiving love, come to this sacrifice of thanksgiving, this meal at Christ’s own table. Come as you are. Come to be changed. Come, offering peace to one another, and your gifts to God. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession & Pardon

Many Voices: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done your will, we have broken your law, we have rebelled against your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

[Silent Prayer]

Pastor Dave: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners: that proves God’s love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ; you are forgiven!

Many Voices: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: Glory to God. Amen.

*Passing the Peace

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor Dave: The Lord be with you.

Many Voices: And also with you.

Pastor Dave: Lift up your hearts.

Many Voices: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor Dave: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Many Voices: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor Dave: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, the Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth. Before you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through your prophets.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Many Voices: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Pastor Dave: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. In his baptism and in table fellowship he took his place with sinners. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you." Do this in remembrance of me.

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Many Voices: Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pastor Dave: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and juice. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

Many Voices: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Sharing the Bread and Cup

***Closing Hymn**

"Near to the Heart of God"

UMH #472

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Going Forth to the World

Bell Choir

Notices

Church Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday: 9:00 am – Noon

Wednesday - Friday: 9:00 am - 3 pm

We ask that you *call before visiting*.

Offering Options

There are different options for getting your offering to the church.

- Go to the church website at www.woodridgeumc.org/giving.
- Text 630.449.7121 with the amount you would like to give
- Drop off in the gold mail slot next to the east door of the church.
- Mail your offering.

Music Director Job Opening

The Staff Parish Committee has updated the job description for Music Director and will be posting the opening in various locations. Please share that we are looking for people who are interested in the position. The committee prays for guidance as we work to fill this very important role in our church. You can find a copy of the job description in the e-News.

Easter Flower Orders

Winter winds might be blowing, but Spring is just around the corner! It is time to think about our sanctuary adorned with beautiful flowers. With many nurseries in the area going out of business, availability of flowers for Easter has become limited. The longer we wait to order, the less availability there is. The nursery we found last year was out of stock of most plants by the time we placed our order at the end of February, and we were limited to our pre-order estimate numbers. This year we would like to see if we can do better. Easter Flower order will be accepted through **Sunday, February 8th**. Order Envelopes are in the in the narthex. *Please order EARLY so totals may be adjusted while there are still flowers available.*

Sharing Our Gifts with Ray Graham

Our Ray Graham day program is looking for volunteers to spend an hour or two sharing their gifts with their clients. Can you bake (above the cupcake level), teach simple carpentry (fastening two boards together), talk about your culture, etc.? You are welcome to share your hobbies and knowledge! Please let the church office know, and we will share the list of volunteers with Ray Graham, so they can work out a schedule.

Valentines for Seniors

Our Youth is sponsoring valentine making **TODAY Sunday, February 1st after worship service**. The cards will be distributed to seniors living in local assisted-living and long-term care facilities. No creative skills needed!!

Begin the New Year by Connecting Deeper with God!

A Sunday morning study of the book, Sacred Pathways - 9 Ways to Connect with God, by Gary

Thomas is running **January 11th - February 8th**. Class will meet **8:45 am - 9:50 am**. If you are interested in attending, contact Charlotte Ashworth at bacatx@gmail.com.

Sunday School

Most Sundays, Children begin the worship service in the sanctuary with their family. Following the "Praying" segment, the children will be invited up to the chancel steps for conversation with the pastors. Then, the Sunday School teacher will meet the children in the Narthex (the big room outside the sanctuary) & walk them to their classroom. They will be in the Trinity Room in the main hallway.

Activity Bags are available in the Narthex every Sunday.

Bible Study

We are studying Jeremiah. The study is offered on **Tuesday mornings via Zoom (10:30 am to Noon)** and **Wednesday evenings** in person (**6:00 pm to 7:30 pm**). We will meet again starting in January. We will read one chapter together each week and go deeper with questions and discussions. Let Pastor Dave know if you are interested in joining!

Youth Ministry 2026

What's happening in Youth Ministries the rest of this year? Take a look:

TODAY Sunday, February 1st: Bring your creativity as we create Valentine's Day cards directly after church.

Saturday, February 21st: Group ski trip to Wisconsin - Please read the registration form very carefully and fill it out by January 31st: <https://forms.gle/SoE68Ne43oSXmaRx5>

Saturday, March 7th: Feed My Starving Children pack out at Benedictine University. Similar to last year, we will sign up for a morning slot and open it up to the whole church.

First Friday Lunch

Please join us on **Friday, February 6th at noon** for lunch. No planning, no reservations, no responsibilities! Bring your sack lunch and a good sense of humor because there are sure to be laughs. Everyone is invited!

Second Saturday Diners

Set **Saturday, February 14th, at 5:00 pm** aside for the Second Saturday Diners!! We will meet and have dinner in the community room at Woodridge Horizon (8099 Janes Ave. in Woodridge - next door to the ARC) on the first floor, which has a kitchen. Elisa will be hosting and providing the main dish, which will be chicken. If you would like to bring a side dish or dessert, you are more than welcome to do so, but please don't feel obligated at all. Your company is what matters most. Also, feel free to bring your own drinks. Please RSVP to Elisa by **Tuesday morning, February 10th** at applei8122000@yahoo.com. Questions? Give Elsie a call (630-222-0497).

Altar Flower Donations

If you would like to donate an arrangement of flowers for the altar, you are welcome to bring one in. Please let the church office know by noon the Wednesday before, especially if the flowers are in memory/honor of someone, so that they may be acknowledged in the bulletin and announcements.

Sew Hope. Keep Girls in School.

Sewing Event & Collection Drive for Girls4Girls Ghana, Inc.

Saturday, March 7, 12–3 p.m. at Barrington United Methodist Church

Join us for a hands-on sewing and service event that helps girls in rural Ghana stay in school by providing reusable sanitary pads. **No sewing experience needed!** Cut fabric, assemble kits, donate supplies—or sew if you'd like. Sewing machines will be available.

Donate & Make a Difference: We are collecting fabric, sewing supplies, and girls' cotton underwear to support G4G's mission to reduce poverty and promote education.

Especially needed: cotton flannel, PUL fabric, Zorb fabric, thread & snaps, girls' cotton underwear (sizes 12–18 / women's 5–8). *Details, supply lists, and ordering information are available in the flyer in the narthex and attached to the e-News.* **Every donation—big or small—matters.**

2026 Lenten Schedule

February 18th – 6:30 to 8:30 am – Mobile Ashing
in church parking lot

- 7:00 pm - Ash Wednesday Service*

March 1st - 11:15 am - Lenten Meal

March 7th – TBA – Feed My Starving Children

March 15th – 11:10 am – Easter Egg Filling

March 21st - 10:00 am - Easter Egg Hunt

March 29th - 10:00 am – Palm Sunday Service*

April 2nd - 6:00 pm Soup Supper

- 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service*

April 3rd – 7:00 pm Good Friday Service*

April 5th – 10:00 am Easter Sunday Service*
with the Choir

Lenten Outreach Project (*full 40 days*) – West Suburban Food Pantry Collection

**In Person & YouTube Livestream*

Mobile Ashing

Join Pastor Dave in the church parking lot on **Wednesday, February 18th at 6:30 to 8:30 am.** There will be continental breakfast snacks, too!

Lenten Book Study

The coming Lenten Study will be a six week study on Tuesday mornings (ZOOM) & Wednesday evenings (In Person) at 6:00 pm **starting February 24th** on *"The Third Day"*. On the third day, he rose again. The author unpacks the Bible's Easter stories and helps the reader see their significance in the lives of people today. This is compelling, honest, and hope-filled book. Please sign up in the Narthex so that the appropriate number of books can be ordered.

Easter Egg Hunt Assistance

Last year was a success, so we're having an EASTER EGG HUNT once again!!!! YAY!!! But we need your help. We need lots of assistants. Please **donate Easter candy** to put into the eggs in the box in the Narthex. ***All candy needs to be individually wrapped and small enough to fit***

in an egg: no nuts, peanut butter, or fruit snacks. All donations need to be in by worship service on **Sunday, March 15th** so we can fill the egg after service. There is a box in the Narthex to drop off donations.

Sunday, March 15th

- - *Fill the Eggs* - after service
 - Come help fill the eggs.

Saturday, March 21st

- - *Egg Hunt Set Up* – at 8:30 am
 - We need helpers to set out the eggs and set up the narthex for the Egg Hunt (let the office know if you can come)
- - *Egg Hunt* - at 10:00am
 - We need helpers to make sure that everyone stays safe, collect the empty eggs, hand out flyers and serve milk, juice and donut holes (let the office know if you can come).

Lenten Lunch

You are invited to bring your favorite side dish: salad, fruit, veggies, lumpia, pasta, fried rice, etc. or dessert to share on **Sunday, March 1st after worship service**. The Worship Committee is bringing ham as the mains!! If you have any questions, contact the church office or Karen Miller.

Lenten Outreach Project - In Support of the West Suburban Community Pantry

This year we will be focusing on packing our WUMC shopping cart with all the most needed items West Suburban Community Pantry has on their shopping list! Please contribute generously as you are able! All donations are welcome, but we are particularly focusing on personal hygiene items. A list will be available soon.

Northern Illinois Conference Annual Conference [Will Focus on Hope](#)

Under the theme "Practicing Hope," clergy and elected lay members will gather for NIC's 187th Annual Conference session, **June 14th – 16th**, at the Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center in Schaumburg. The theme invites participants to explore how hope shapes ministry, mission, and the future of the church. "Hope allows for newness. Hope allows that God will call us forward. Hope allows us to say yes to whatever call is placed on our lives," said Bishop Schwerin. Find the link to more information in the e-News.

February Outreach – Methodist Youth Services

Strengthening Lives. Providing Help. Creating Hope

[Methodist Youth Services \(MYSI\)](#) founded by a group of Methodist Men and based in Chicago is dedicated to transforming lives by providing holistic care, promoting independence, and advocating for the well-being of vulnerable youth and their families. We envision a world where every young person is equipped to transition into adulthood with the tools, skills, and resources needed to thrive.

MYSI programs and services are designed to assist children, adults and families to achieve their full potentials by providing services which focus on empowering them to become independent

and economically self-sufficient and encourages and assists youth in working to obtain life skills, including creating positive peer relationships, developing socialization skills, and obtaining educational credentials which are necessary to become employed.

Ways to donate to the February Outreach Offering:

- Check or cash in an Outreach Offering envelope placed in the offering plate in the Narthex (the room outside the sanctuary) or in the gold-plated mail slot at the church's east door.
- Online via our website. Select "Current Month Outreach" in the drop-down menu.
- Text the amount you want to give to 630-449-7121 and select "Current Month Outreach" in the drop-down menu.

Help Shape the Future of The United Methodist Church

The 2026 Council of Bishops Leadership Gathering represents a pivotal moment for The United Methodist Church, and your participation is essential to its success. The Leadership Design Team has created multiple pathways for every United Methodist to contribute to this discernment process:

- A [denomination-wide survey](#) open to **ALL** United Methodist Clergy and Laity (available in six languages). It asks what you hope for, what you envision, and what message you want gathering participants to carry forward. It is open until February 15. [Take the survey](#) with the link in the e-News.
- Three Saturday [webinar sessions](#) will feature diverse theological voices from across our global connection. All webinars will be recorded for later viewing (<https://www.umcnic.org/calendar/vision-statement-webinars>).
 - **Jan. 24**, Wesleyan Theology "**Love Boldly.**"
 - **Feb. 21**, 9 to 10:30 a.m. Wesleyan Mission, "**Serve Joyfully**"
 - **March 21**, 9 to 10:30 a.m. Wesleyan Leadership, "**Lead Courageously**"