

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY

Woodridge United Methodist Church

Sunday, April 19th, 2026

3rd Sunday of Easter

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Richard: Easter people, hear the good news proclaimed with boldness: God has made Jesus both Lord and Christ!

Many Voices: We come with open hearts, ready to hear and respond.

Richard: The promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away—everyone whom the Lord our God calls.

Many Voices: We gather to turn toward God and receive new life.

Richard: God desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Many Voices: We come to worship the one God, revealed in Jesus Christ, our mediator and Savior.

All: Let us worship God with hearts ready to be transformed!

*Opening Hymn

UMH #57

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (*verses 1,3,4 & 7*)

*Passing the Peace

Opening Prayer

Richard: Gracious and loving God, you call us to turn our lives toward you, to leave behind all that separates us from your love, and to receive the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. You are a God who desires all people to be saved, a God who reaches out across every boundary, drawing near to those who feel far away. Open our hearts this day to hear your truth. Stir within us a deep sense of your presence and a willingness to respond to your call. Through the power of your Holy Spirit, shape us into a community of grace, ready to welcome, to love, and to witness to the hope we have in Christ. We pray in the name of Jesus, our Lord and our Savior.

All: Amen.

Blessing Our Children

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: Generous God, you have given us the greatest gift of all—the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, who gave himself as a ransom for all. In gratitude, we bring these offerings before you. Receive them as signs of our repentance, our trust, and our desire to follow you. Use these gifts to proclaim your good news, to reach those who feel far away, and to build a community where all are

welcomed into the knowledge of your truth. Transform not only these offerings, but also our lives, that we may be faithful witnesses to your saving love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Scripture Lesson 1

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 (CEB)

Scripture Lesson 2

1 Timothy 2:3-7 (CEB)

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

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"Living Spirit, Holy Fire"

W&S #3109

Proclaiming

"Change Hearts and Lives"

Pastor Dave

Praying

Joys & Concerns

Prayers for the People

Lord's Prayer

*Closing Hymn

"Cry of My Heart"

TFWS #2165

*Dismissal with Blessing

Going Forth to the World

Notices

Church Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Wednesday - Friday: 9:00 am – Noon

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.

May - June Upper Rooms

The Upper Rooms for May - June are now available in the Narthex. Please note the prices. Regular print is \$1.50 and large print is \$2.

New WUMC T-Shirts!

The new t-shirts are available for pick up after service.

You can also call the office and pick them up.

Lost and Found!

The church has several items that have been left behind. They are on display in the narthex.

Please visit the table to see if any of the items are yours. They will all be donated or recycled if

they are not claimed.

Native American Ministries TODAY, Sunday, April 19th

What is Native American Ministries Sunday?

This Special Sunday is a denomination wide celebration designed to raise awareness and remind United Methodists of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society. A gap in knowledge exists in The United Methodist Church, in congregations and other United Methodist entities, relative to comprehending concepts of Native American life, cultures, languages, spirit, values, contemporary issues, and such. We affirm the sacredness of indigenous people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the church and the world.

An offering is taken on this Special Sunday to support vital ministries and churches in the Native American communities. The offering allows The United Methodist Church to partner with existing native ministries to develop new programs on behalf of Native Americans.

Patio Committee Meeting

The Patio Committee (formerly the Preschool Committee) will be meeting on **TODAY, Sunday April 19th after service**. Please plan to go over the options that were to be researched since the last meeting.

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 April 21st & 22nd**. 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!

Ad Council Meeting

There is an Administrative Council Meeting on **Saturday, April 25th at 9:00 am** in the Standing Rock room. Please plan on attending if you are a member of the Ad Council, but everyone is welcome!

Creation Care Summit

If you're interested in environmental justice, you'll learn valuable (and money-saving) practices at NIC's Creation Care Summit on **May 2nd, 9 am to noon**, at First UMC in Arlington Heights. Rev. Harriette Cross, chair of NIC's Creation Care Committee, explains the highlights. Choose among four workshops: engaging your community, building green teams, reducing energy bills, and planting native plants. See the e-News for more information and the registration link.

Culture Shift Leadership Training

The Prairie Central District Shepherding Team is bringing Rev. Jim Ozier back to Northern Illinois for Part Two of [Culture Shift: Cultivating Healthy Congregations](#), a one-day experience that builds on the foundation of the January 31st Zoom gathering viewable [here](#), offering space for reflection, discussion, and shared learning. Participants are encouraged to attend and continue this important work of helping our churches become healthier and more vital together. The event is open to all church Glens. Join us at Barrington UMC, on **Sunday, May 3rd, from 2:00 pm to 5:30 pm**. Registration will open later.

Hear from Missionary Belinda Forbes

Join us as we explore the transforming work of United Methodist missionaries serving around the world. You will have the opportunity to meet in a small group to hear a presentation from a single missionary during the call. Find out more about the missionaries at www.umcmision.org.

Meet Dr. Belinda Forbes, a dentist and missionary supported by the NIC, on **May 7th at 11:00 am to noon**. This #StillinMission online gathering features Dr. Forbes as she provides updates from her missionary placement with AMOS Health and Hope, which is located next to the city dump in Villa Guadalupe, Nicaragua. The Zoom call lasts for one hour. See the e-News for the link to more information and registration. Registration is limited.

Graduate Recognition Sunday, June 7th

During the worship service on **Sunday, June 7th**, we will honor all our graduates: junior high, high school, college, and beyond. If you or a family member are graduating this spring let us know so we can include you! Please email the church office (office@woodridgeumc.org) with the graduate's name, a photo, and the school from which they are graduating as well as what's next for them (college & major, job, etc.).

Northern Illinois Conference Annual Conference Needs Volunteers

The 2026 Annual Conference is just around the corner (June 14th – 16th), and we invite you to be part of what makes this gathering welcoming and meaningful. We are seeking volunteers to help provide hospitality to our guests and assist with the many moving parts that help Annual Conference run efficiently. We need volunteers to serve in a variety of roles. Whether you are available for the entire event, a full day, or just part of a day, we would love your help. You may sign up for as many roles and time slots as you would like, and no previous experience is necessary. **Complete the Volunteer Form by May 22** (More information & registration link in the e-News).

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.

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.

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.

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.

April Outreach – Save Abandoned Babies Foundation

The Save Abandoned Babies Foundation is a not-for-profit volunteer group dedicated to saving babies from being abandoned in dumpsters and other unsafe places. Our grassroots effort began in March of 2000 when our volunteers drafted a safe haven law and lobbied for its passage. The resulting Abandoned Newborn Infant Protection Act unanimously passed both the Illinois House and Senate and was signed into Illinois law in August of 2001.

The Save Abandoned Babies Foundation is now focused on spreading awareness of the Safe Haven Law, allowing a parent to safely relinquish their newborn to a person at a Police Station (including campus police), Fire Station, Hospital or Emergency Medical Facility with no questions asked. Since the enactment of this law 160 newborns have been safely relinquished.

Ways to donate to the April 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.