

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY
Woodridge United Methodist Church
Sunday, July 5th, 2026 7th Sunday after Pentecost

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Elsie: We gather today in the midst of busy lives and hectic schedules that mirror the chaotic pace of the world around us.

Many Voices: We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.

Elsie: We gather as people inundated with constant information, fast-moving news cycles, and ever-present alerts vying for our attention.

Many Voices: We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.

Elsie: We gather as people seeking to anchor ourselves in the faith as the world around us is blown to and from by waves of fear, scarcity, and reactivity.

Many Voices: We come to set our minds on the guidance of the Spirit.

Elsie: Beloved, come. Come to find rest, grounding, and guidance in the Spirit who dwells in you.

Many Voices: We come to set our minds on the Spirit who guides us and draws us together toward life, peace, and flourishing. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"Hymn of Promise"

UMH#707

*The Apostle's Creed

UMH #881

Opening Prayer

Elsie: God of life and peace, by the power of your Spirit come to us now. We have stumbled through the week and groped our way back to this place. Illumine the steps before us and write your Word on our hearts, for we carry the name of Jesus and would walk in the light of his love.

All: Amen.

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: Living God, you meet us this day with grace that frees and a Spirit that gives life. You tell us there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, and we cling to that good news with grateful hearts. As we bring these gifts, we set our minds on you—not on fear or self-interest, but on the life and peace you promise. Shape us by your Spirit to live generously, to seek the good of our neighbors, and to share in your work of healing and reconciliation. Receive these offerings as signs of our attention being fixed on Christ and our lives opened to your renewing power. We give thanks; we give ourselves, and we trust your Spirit to lead us into abundant life. Amen.

Scripture Readings

New Testament Lesson
Gospel Lesson

Romans 8:5-11 (*CEB*)
Matthew 13:18-23 (*NRSVue*)

Elsie: The Word of God for the People of God.
Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"Spirit of the Living God"

UMH #393

Proclaiming

"Keep Sowing Seeds"

Pastor Dave

Praying

Joys & Concerns
Prayers for the People

Holy Communion

Invitation

Pastor Dave: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. 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. 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, who looked for that day when justice shall roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream, when nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

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. 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. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. 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. At his ascension you exalted him to sit and reign with you at your right hand.

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**

"One Bread, One Body"

UMH #620

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Going Forth to the World