

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY
Woodridge United Methodist Church
Sunday, July 26th, 2026 9th Sunday after Pentecost

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Dianne: Beloved, this is the core of our faith: nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God!

Dianne: God's never-ending love surrounds us and calls us, assuring us that through God's love, all things will work together for God's good purposes.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God!

Dianne: God's never-breaking love empowers us in the face of temptation, distress, division, and scarcity to hold onto our faith and work together for the flourishing of all God's good creation.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God!

Dianne: Come, let us worship God who is Love, trusting that through joy and sorrow, happiness and despair, contentment and pain, Love will carry us through.

Many Voices: Thanks be to God who forms, connects, and guides us through Love. Amen.

*Opening Hymn

"I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord"

UMH #540

*Passing the Peace

Opening Prayer

Dianne: Merciful God, your extravagant love has called us together. Long before we even knew you, you already knew us, and had chosen us to be part of your own family—siblings with our Lord Jesus Christ himself. What amazing love you have shown toward us! And so, we come before you with praise and thanksgiving, offering you the worship of our hearts and lives, and opening ourselves to the prompting and leading of your Holy Spirit. Receive our worship—our praise and prayers and offerings—through the intercession of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. May the time we spend here in your presence bring honor and glory to your name.

All: Amen.

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: Steadfast God, you search our hearts and know our needs even when we struggle to find the words. In your mercy, you strengthen us in our weakness and bind us together in love that cannot be broken. As we bring these gifts today, may they bear witness to your enduring promise: that nothing—not

hardship, nor fear, nor even death itself—can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus. Bless these offerings, that they may bring hope to the weary, peace to the troubled, and joy to the hearts of your people. Through Christ, our Redeemer and Companion, we pray. Amen.

Scripture Readings

New Testament Lesson
Gospel Lesson

Romans 8:31-39 (*CEB*)
Matthew 13:31-33 (*NRSVue*)

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

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"Seek Ye First"

UMH#405

Proclaiming

"Small Beginnings"

Pastor Dave

Praying

Joys & Concerns
Prayers for the People
Lord's Prayer

*Closing Hymn

"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

UMH #521

*Dismissal with Blessing

Going Forth to the World