

AN ORDER OF CELEBRATION FOR THE GATHERED COMMUNITY
Woodridge United Methodist Church
Sunday, August 23rd, 2026 13th Sunday after Pentecost

Music to Prepare Our Hearts

Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

*Call to Worship

Carol: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Many Voices: We belong to God.

Carol: When we feel overwhelmed,

Many Voices: God is on our side.

Carol: When we are afraid,

Many Voices: God will keep us safe.

Carol: Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Many Voices: Blessed be the Lord!

*Opening Hymn

"Forward Through the Ages"

UMH #555

*Passing the Peace

Opening Prayer

Carol: Gracious God, we present our very lives as holy and living sacrifices for your divine purposes. During this time of worship, we seek the renewal of our minds and the strengthening of our spirits. Show us your will, that we may know what is good, acceptable, and perfect in your sight.

All: Amen.

Offering Ourselves

Blessing our Gifts with Music

*Doxology

*Offering Prayer

All: Faithful God, you call us to know who we are because we know whose we are—your people, shaped by Christ and sent for the sake of the world. Receive these gifts as signs of our trust in your way of life over the ways of death, of courage over control, of welcome over exclusion. Use what we offer to strengthen your church as a living witness to your grace, that through our sharing and our serving, others may discover the identity of Christ and the hope found in him. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 1:8-11 (*NRSVue*)

New Testament Lesson

Romans 12:1-8 (*NRSVue*)

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 16:15-16 (*NRSVue*)

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

Many Voices: Thanks be to God.

Responsive Song

"Christ Has Broken Down the Wall"

W&S#3122

Proclaiming

"No Us and Them"

Pastor Dave

Praying

Joys & Concerns

Prayers for the People

Lord's Prayer

***Closing Hymn**

"They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love"

TFWS #2223

Dismissal with Blessing*Going Forth to the World**