



The \_\_\_\_\_  
**First Congregational Church**  
\_\_\_\_\_ of Woodstock \_\_\_\_\_

*Declaring, "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today,  
and forever." Hebrews 13:8*

*January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024*



**crucified, died, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

Elder: Christian, what do you believe concerning the Holy Spirit and His work?

**Congregation: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic<sup>1</sup> church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| ❖ Creedal Song #731       | <i>Doxology</i>                     | Congregation         |
| ❖ Scripture Reading       | Philippians 2:5-11                  | Elder                |
| ❖ Hymn of Reflection #226 | <i>As With Gladness Men of Old</i>  | Congregation         |
| The Sermon                | Matthew 1:18-25                     | Rev. Steve Froehlich |
|                           | <i>“Joseph, a Just Man”</i>         |                      |
| ❖ Hymn of Response #213   | <i>What Child Is This</i>           | Congregation         |
| Communion                 |                                     | Congregation         |
| ❖ Communion Hymn #203     | <i>Hark! the Herald Angels Sing</i> | Congregation         |
| ❖ Benediction             | Romans 15:13                        | Pastor               |

*The Congregation may be seated after the Benediction for silent prayer.*

Postlude

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*~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~  
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~*

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<sup>1</sup> The term “catholic” is used here in its generic sense of the universal church, not to refer to a denomination.

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## Pastor Doug is Away

Pastor Doug will be away from December 30-January 13, first on vacation in Maine, and then in California, where he will be taking classes as a part of his Doctor of Ministry program. If you have an emergency, please contact one of the elders below:

Elder Peter Vanderhoof (Chair): 802-483-9430, [pdvanderhoof@gmail.com](mailto:pdvanderhoof@gmail.com)  
Elder Tom Johnston: 802-457-3012, [tajdmd1@gmail.com](mailto:tajdmd1@gmail.com)  
Elder Stephen Briggs: 802-775-8088, [briggsboat@gmail.com](mailto:briggsboat@gmail.com)

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## Guest Speaker: Steve Froehlich

Steve Froehlich served as Senior Pastor of New Life Presbyterian Church in Ithaca, New York from 1998-2022. He is currently retired, but still an active member of the congregation and provides ministry to New Life on occasion. Previously, he served as Executive Vice President of Reformed Theological Seminary and as Assistant Pastor to Highlands Presbyterian Church in Jackson, MS. He completed undergraduate studies in theatre. His Doctor of Ministry thesis, entitled “Faithful Presence: How Community Formation Shapes the Understanding and Practice of Calling,” reflects his commitment to encouraging and equipping people to live for God’s glory and the common good in every area of culture.

During his time in Ithaca, he has served as board president of Chesterton House Center for Christian Studies at Cornell University, on the board of the PCA Foundation, and as a member of the Ithaca City School District’s Key Communicators Team. His interests include the intersection of Christianity and the arts, especially literature and film. He and his wife, Sheryl, met in college. They have three sons and four grandchildren.

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The January Prayer Letter is available on the back table.

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**Save the Date!**

**Sunday, January 21** — Missionary visit with Ben & Sarah Courtemanche

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## Weekly Gathering Opportunities

**Sundays, 6:00 pm** — Young Adult Fellowship Group in the library

**Tuesdays, 7:00 am** — Middle School & High School Bible Study—meet at Maplefields to grab breakfast, then on to the church for study, discussion, and prayer.

**Tuesdays, 10:00 am** — Ladies' Bible Study meets in person at the Thompson Senior Center and via ZOOM, please contact Bonnie Atwood at (802) 457-4120 or email [bonhope2@gmail.com](mailto:bonhope2@gmail.com).

**Tuesdays, 6:00 pm** — Prayer Meeting, in person in the library and via ZOOM

**Wednesdays, 6:15 am** — Men's Bible Study, in person in the library and via ZOOM, please contact Dick Atwood at (802) 457-4120 or email [rbatwood1@gmail.com](mailto:rbatwood1@gmail.com).

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Sermon Notes

First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Rev. Steve Froehlich

January 7, 2024

10:30 Morning Worship Service:

Matthew 1:18-25

## **Joseph, a Just Man**