



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

January 22nd, 2023

Nursery Volunteers Needed

Can you give one Sunday this spring to help minister to the youngest members of our church family? We have a full-time nursery attendant, but we need a volunteer to help her each Sunday from 10-12. If you are willing to help one Sunday or more, or if you have questions, please contact Karis Warren at karis.warren@gmail.com or (207) 329-4190. Thank you!

Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet tonight
at 6 pm in the church library.



Mid Vermont Christian School

Educating for Impact

Calling missionaries to MVCS!

We are seeking qualified and enthusiastic individuals
who have a passion for Christian education!

MVCS has full-time and part-time (pt)* positions available:

Elementary School Teacher

Physical Education Teacher (pt)

Athletic Director (pt)

Instrumental Teacher (pt)

JSH Foreign Language Teacher (pt)

JSH Mathematics Teacher (STEM teacher would be ideal!)

*could be full time if combined with other positions

Please contact Vicky at headofschool@mvcs.info or 802-295-6800.

Young Adult
**PIZZA
& SUPERBOWL
PARTY**

SUNDAY | 12TH FEB | 4:00 PM

@ THE PARSONAGE

41 ELM STREET
WOODSTOCK, VT 05091

Bring your favorite pizza toppings and salad dressings! We will eat, sing, and study God's Word together! All are welcome to stay afterwards to watch the Super Bowl!

RSVP (not required but appreciated!)
Text Karis @ 207-329-4190

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Destitute Sojourners

1. How Did Naomi Get to Rock Bottom?
2. Sin Always Leads to Death.
3. What Deadly Threats Are We Entertaining?

Conclusion: The story of this Jewish family opens with a bleak account of their misery and descent into destitution. Before we can rightly understand their restoration, we need to reckon with how they got where they were. What lessons are there for us in digging into their folly? How do the promises of God to His people apply to them? How do they apply to us? What is the Holy Spirit leading us to do as a result of what His Word says here?

Genesis 17:7-8

⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you [Abraham] and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you *the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession*, and I will be their God.”

Second Chronicles 7:12-16

¹² Then the Lord appeared to Solomon in the night and said to him: “I have heard your prayer and have chosen this place for myself as a house of sacrifice. ¹³ *When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain*, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, ¹⁴ *if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land*. ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place. ¹⁶ For now I have chosen and consecrated this house that my name may be there forever. My eyes and my heart will be there for all time.

Deuteronomy 12:5-9

⁵ But you shall seek the place that the Lord your God will choose out of all your tribes to put his name and make his habitation there. There you shall go, ⁶ and there you shall bring your burnt offerings and your sacrifices, your tithes and the contribution that you present, your vow offerings, your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herd and of your flock. ⁷ And there you shall eat before the Lord your God, and you shall rejoice, you and your households, in all that you undertake, in which the Lord your God has blessed you. ⁸ “You shall not do according to all that we are doing here today, *everyone doing whatever is right in his own eyes*, ⁹ for you have not as yet come to the rest and to the inheritance that the Lord your God is giving you.

Second Corinthians 6:14-18

¹⁴ *Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers*. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness? ¹⁵ What accord has Christ with Belial? Or what portion does a believer share with an unbeliever? ¹⁶ What agreement has the temple of God with idols? *For we are the temple of the living God*; as God said, “I will make my dwelling among them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.” ¹⁷ Therefore go out from their midst, and be separate from them, says the Lord, and touch no unclean thing; then I will welcome you, ¹⁸ and I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty.”

Nehemiah 13:26-27

Did not Solomon king of Israel sin on account of such women? Among the many nations there was no king like him, and he was beloved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel. Nevertheless, foreign women made even him to sin. Shall we then listen to you and *do all this great evil and act treacherously against our God by marrying foreign women?*”

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Any good rescue story needs to start out in a hopeless darkness. We can see no hope of deliverance, no way of escape. That is what makes the eventual redemption so wonderful. We will spend the next several months studying the book of *Ruth* in the Hebrew Scriptures and as we find Naomi's family in the opening verses, they are in dire need of rescue.

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ. Ask Jesus to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday Morning

READ **Ruth 1:1-5; Genesis 17:7-8; Deuteronomy 12:5-9; Second Chronicles 7:12-16; Second Corinthians 6:14-18; Nehemiah 13:26-27; Malachi 2:10-12; Luke 1:39-56.** DISCUSS How does Naomi get to rock bottom? Have you ever been there? Do you recognize your destitution apart from Christ? How are you (we) looking to something other than Christ for our good? MEDITATE on **John 14:15-17.** PRAY "Jesus, thank You for bringing us to the end of ourselves so that we might see You as all we need. Enable us to delight in You and obey You by faith in Your righteousness for our sake."

Sunday Evening

The *Young Adults' Fellowship* will meet at **6pm** in the FCCW Library.

Monday

READ **Ruth 1:1-5; Genesis 17:7-8; Deuteronomy 12:5-9; Second Corinthians 6:14-18.** DISCUSS How is God's promise in Genesis continued in Deuteronomy? What does our love for God have to do with who we marry? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **John 14:15-17.** PRAY, "Father, make us more like Christ in faithful devotion to You. Enable us to love You with fidelity."

Tuesday

READ **Ruth 1:1-5; Genesis 17:7-8; Malachi 2:10-12; Luke 1:39-56.** DISCUSS How do God's promises come true in Christ? Why do Mary and Elizabeth rejoice in Luke? SERVE by considering someone else's needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **John 14:15-17.** PRAY, "Lord God, thank You for entering into covenant with us. Thank You for Your promise to be our God and take us as Your people. Enable us to live as becomes Your holy sons and daughters in Christ."

Wednesday

READ **Ruth 1:1-5; Genesis 17:7-8; Nehemiah 13:26-27**. DISCUSS How did being unequally yoked inhibit Solomon? How do you need to repent from similar faithlessness? SERVE by *caring about someone else* more than yourself! MEDITATE on **John 14:15-17**. PRAY, “Lord, forgive us our sins for they are heinous.”

Thursday

READ **Ruth 1:1-5; Genesis 17:7-8; Second Chronicles 7:12-16; First Corinthians 7:39**. DISCUSS Why is marrying “only in the Lord” such an important command? How does Christ’s forgiveness embolden us to confess our sin? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own*! MEDITATE on **John 14:15-17**. PRAY, “Lord, You give us all that we have. You are forever kind and gracious to Your people. Please receive our humble gratitude and forgive us our presumption.”

Friday

READ **Ruth 1:1-5; Genesis 17:7-8; Deuteronomy 12:5-9; Second Chronicles 7:12-16; Second Corinthians 6:14-18; Nehemiah 13:26-27; Malachi 2:10-12; Luke 1:39-56**. DISCUSS, What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you this week through these passages? MEDITATE on **John 14:15-17**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *truly delight in God’s goodness together*.

Saturday

PREPARE for *gathered worship tomorrow*. READ **Ruth 1:1-22**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *worship service @ 10:30*. Ask Jesus to *help us adore Him through obedience as we gather*.

John 14:15-17

[Jesus said] “If you *love* me, you will *keep my commandments*. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.”