

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

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

*March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024  
Easter Celebration Service*

# *Easter Celebration Service*

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Ten-thirty

Welcome

Pastor Doug Warren

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship

Pastor

Pastor: Christ is risen!

**Congregation: He is risen indeed!**

❖ Hymn of Exultation #277 *Christ the Lord is Risen Today* Congregation

Scriptural Call to Repentance

Romans 8:9-11

Pastor

Collective Confession

Congregation

**Gracious Lord, we confess now that we dishonor You in our words and thoughts and deeds. Depending on our own strength we stumble; proclaiming our own goodness, we sin; glorying in our own righteousness we corrupt everything we touch. Turning our faces from You, Lord, we desire the things of this world to satisfy us. We pray now, Lord, for You to forgive all of our many sins; to cleanse the darkness from our lives, and to turn our faces and our hearts back towards You. We pray these things in the name of Your most precious Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Colossians 2:13-14

Pastor

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor

Offering

(collected from back to front)

Congregation

Description of Easter Sacrificial Offering Recipient

Scripture Reading

Romans 8:1-8

Pastor

Affirmation of Faith

Romans 10:9-10

Congregation

**If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. Amen.**

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|--|---|--------------|
| Easter Sacrificial Offering (collected from back to front) |   | Congregation |
| ❖ Hymn of Reflection #275                                  | <i>The Strife is O'er, the Battle Done</i>      | Congregation |
| The Sermon   | Mark 16:1-8                                     | Pastor       |
|  | <i>“Wishful Thinking or Resurrection Hope?”</i> |              |
| ❖ Hymn of Response #274                                    | <i>Thine Be the Glory</i>                       | Congregation |
| ❖ Benediction  | Hebrews 13:20-21                                | Pastor       |

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

Postlude

*~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~  
 ~~ Handbells: Jonathan Denham, Kyle Huck,  
 Heidi Tucker, Kristen Warren ~~*

*~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~*

*Preludes: Hallelujah Chorus from The Messiah (Handel)  
 Trumpet Voluntary in D Major (Clarke)  
 Offertory: An Easter Story (Robards)  
 Sacrificial Offering: All Things New (Peterson/Shive/Gullahorn)  
 Postlude: Prelude in G Major (J. S. Bach)*

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*The Easter Plants Are Given in Loving Memory of:*

Robert Powell, Marion & Louis Van Dyk by Carol Powell  
 David B. Johnston by Doris Johnston  
 Allen & Irene Owens by Gail Owens  
 C. Everett Koop by Cora Koop  
 Sue Houlberg by the Warren Family

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**Easter Sacrificial Offering**

Our special Easter Sacrificial Offering today is for Caleb Rayapati and Harvest Ministries in Secunderabad, India. They are in need of a new vehicle to enable them to travel throughout the region and minister in many ways to these remote villages in the name of Jesus. Check out the front-page feature of the FCCW March Prayer Letter for more information and some pictures!

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## Save the Date!

**Saturday, April 6, 8:00-9:00 am** — Men's Prayer Breakfast

**Friday, April 12-Saturday, April 13** — Intro to FCCW Workshop

**Saturday, April 20, 9:00 am-3:30 pm** — CCEF Conference

**Saturday, April 20, 5:30-8:00 pm** — Community Barn Dance & Chili Supper

**Thursday, May 30, 6:00 pm** — Supper Talk: Beyond "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." Who was Jonathan Edwards and why should we know about him? Meal at 6 pm followed by the presentation given by Paul Hoehner

**Friday, June 7** — Concert of Prayer

**Sunday, July 21** — Church Picnic on the WCCC playground (rain date July 28)

**Saturday, August 24** — Libby Warren's wedding here at FCCW

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There will be no Young Adult Fellowship Group tonight.

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## Introduction to FCCW Workshop

Interested in knowing more about FCCW? Want to explore questions about the Bible in a small group? What does it mean to be a member? What opportunities are there to serve at FCCW? Consider attending the *Introduction to FCCW Workshop* being offered **Friday** night, **April 12**, from **6-9 pm** (includes dinner) and **Saturday** morning, **April 13**, from **9 am-noon** (includes continental breakfast.) This two-part workshop will give insight into how FCCW functions and the importance of membership. To register, please contact Kristen at [fccwinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fccwinfo@gmail.com).

Session One—Worship

Session Two—Joyous Knowledge

Session Three—Radical Love for One Another

Session Four— Extending His Grace

Session Five— Belonging to His Community

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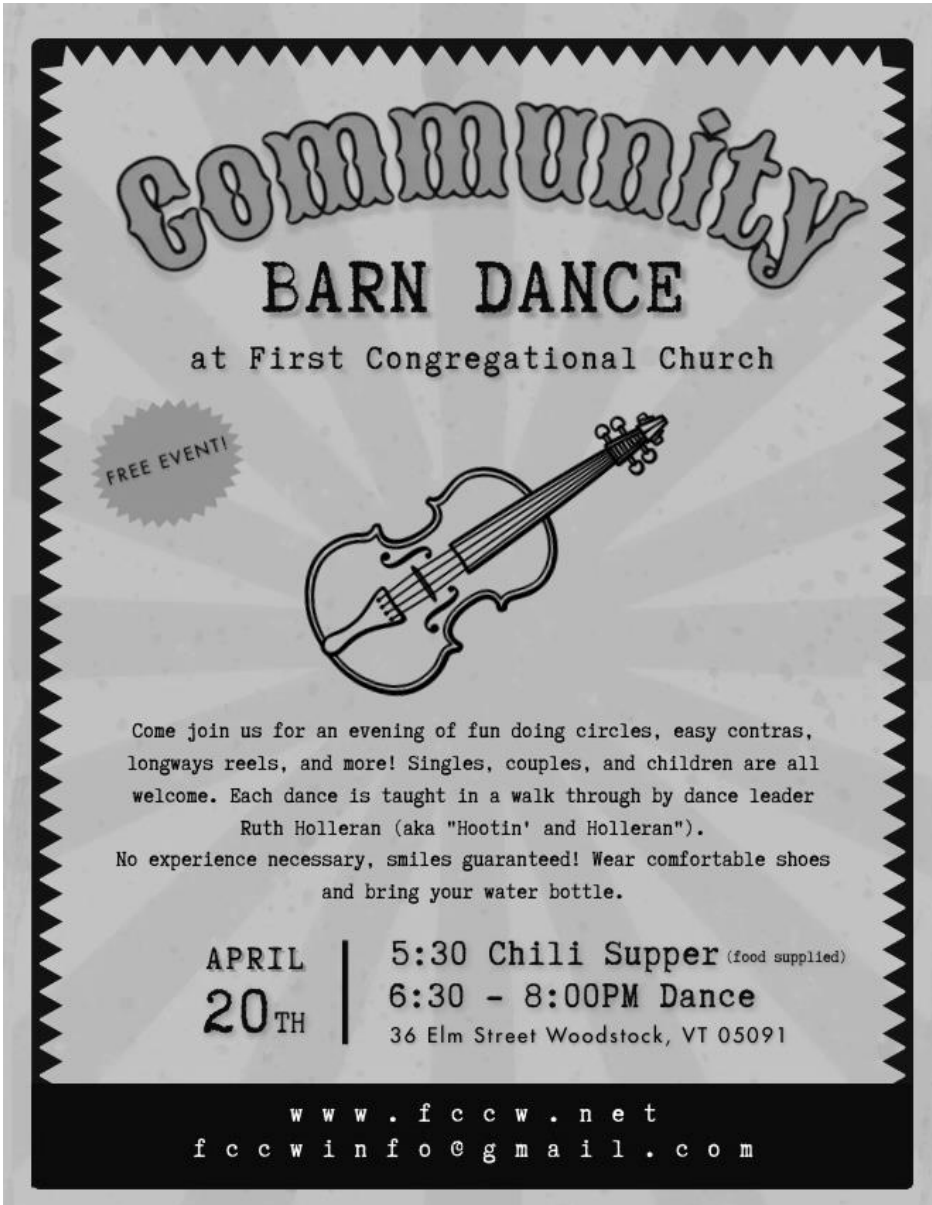
## Community Barn Dance & Chili Supper

Our Community Barn Dance & Chili Supper is coming up on Saturday, April 20th! The COT has a fun evening planned and everyone is welcome (see details on the graphic below.) This is a great event for us to invite our friends and neighbors to!

Besides coming yourself and inviting others, there are several ways in which you can help. Here are the needs:

- Teams of 3-4 people each for set up and clean up
- 4-5 people to each make a pot of chili to feed 10 people each
- 4-5 people to each make a dessert


If you can help with any of these needs, please reply to this email or on the sign-up sheet in the Billings Room.



The poster features a decorative border with a zig-zag pattern. At the top, the word "Community" is written in a large, bubbly, outlined font. Below it, "BARN DANCE" is in a bold, blocky font, followed by "at First Congregational Church" in a smaller, typewriter-style font. A starburst graphic on the left says "FREE EVENT!". In the center is a line drawing of a violin. Below the violin, text describes the event: "Come join us for an evening of fun doing circles, easy contras, longways reels, and more! Singles, couples, and children are all welcome. Each dance is taught in a walk through by dance leader Ruth Holleran (aka 'Hootin' and Holleran')." It also states "No experience necessary, smiles guaranteed! Wear comfortable shoes and bring your water bottle." At the bottom, the date "APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup>" is on the left, and the times "5:30 Chili Supper (food supplied)" and "6:30 - 8:00PM Dance" are on the right, with the address "36 Elm Street Woodstock, VT 05091" below. The website "www.fccw.net" and email "fccwinfo@gmail.com" are at the very bottom.

**Community**  
**BARN DANCE**  
at First Congregational Church

FREE EVENT!



Come join us for an evening of fun doing circles, easy contras, longways reels, and more! Singles, couples, and children are all welcome. Each dance is taught in a walk through by dance leader Ruth Holleran (aka "Hootin' and Holleran").

No experience necessary, smiles guaranteed! Wear comfortable shoes and bring your water bottle.

APRIL 20<sup>TH</sup> | 5:30 Chili Supper (food supplied)  
6:30 - 8:00PM Dance  
36 Elm Street Woodstock, VT 05091

www.fccw.net  
fccwinfo@gmail.com

Woodstock Congregational Church

# MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2024

8-9  
AM

We keep it simple: Discuss a  
topic over breakfast, follow with  
prayer, and out in an hour.

Preston Bristow will facilitate

ENTER BY CHURCH BACK DOOR

This month's topic: Be Strong and Courageous

*"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.  
Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord  
your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9*

## 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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## Greeter Sign Up

There is a sign-up sheet in the Billings Room for Sunday morning greeters. If you would like to help welcome folks on Sunday morning please take a moment to sign up! Questions? Check with Rosmarie Vanderhoof.

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## Nursery Staff Position

We are looking to hire someone as our Nursery Attendant. Please join us in praying for the Lord to raise up a mature, responsible adult (18+) who loves Jesus and children and who would be the anchor for caring for the little ones on Sunday mornings, assisted by volunteers from the congregation. For more information or to apply, please contact Karl Huck at [karlhuck@gmail.com](mailto:karlhuck@gmail.com). Thank you.

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## **Mark's Gospel—Jesus' True Identity Reveals the Magnitude of His Sacrifice**

10:30 am Easter Worship Service:

Mark 16:1-8

### **Wishful Thinking or Resurrection Hope?**

*Faith in a resurrected Jesus changes everything.*

1. **Their Devotion to Jesus Is Beautiful** (1-3).

2. **They Needed *Faith & Repentance* for Resurrection Power** (4-8).

3. **We Need *Faith & Repentance* for Resurrection Power** (8).

Conclusion: It is so easy for us to be like the two Marys going about our merry little religion, oblivious to the reality of the resurrection. Christ conquered death for us in His resurrection. As we await His return we are to live in His Kingdom with repentance and faith. These are the means of applying His resurrection power to our fear and bewilderment. We must not continue trying to merely manage our relationship with Him but be transformed by resurrection life!



### **Mark 8:31**

<sup>31</sup> And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.

### **Matthew 16:21**

<sup>21</sup> From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

### **Matthew 17:22-23**

<sup>22</sup> As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is about to be delivered into the hands of men, <sup>23</sup> and they will kill him, and he will be raised on the third day.” And they were greatly distressed.

### **Matthew 20:17-19**

<sup>17</sup> And as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside, and on the way he said to them, <sup>18</sup> “See, we are going up to Jerusalem. And the Son of Man will be delivered over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death <sup>19</sup> and deliver him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and he will be raised on the third day.”

### **Romans 8:1-11**

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup> For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup> For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. <sup>5</sup> For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup> For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God's law; indeed, it cannot. <sup>8</sup> Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup> You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup> But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup> If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

Just do what you're told! Follow the law. Obey. You don't understand, but you keep your head down. Devotion devoid of faith cannot produce the power necessary to truly follow Christ. All the obedience in the world without faith cannot please God. Praise the Lord, Christ rose from the dead! We can believe Him in all that He promises us in His holy Word.

*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.*

## **EASTER Sunday Morning**

**READ Mark 16:1-8; 8:31; Matthew 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:17-19; Romans 8:1-11.** DISCUSS, Why did Jesus need to die? How did He rise from the dead? What did His resurrection accomplish? What did He tell them would happen before they went to Jerusalem? What difference does it make that He knew what He was doing? In whom do you believe? MEDITATE on Romans 8:10-11. PRAY for God to show us how His resurrection from the dead changes everything.

## **Sunday Evening**

There will be no **Young Adult Fellowship** tonight. Join us next week!

## **Monday**

**READ Mark 16:1-8; Deuteronomy 21:22-23; Galatians 3:10-14.** DISCUSS, How was Jesus cursed in our place? Why? If He has taken our curse and paid the penalty that we owe, what is our status now? How are you celebrating it? MEDITATE on Romans 8:10-11. PRAY for the congregation of FCCW that we might delight in the freedom we have in Christ. Ask Him to make us to resemble Him more in devotion to the Father.

## **Tuesday**

**READ Mark 16:1-8; Matthew 23:23-28; Colossians 2:20-23.** DISCUSS, Why does dead religion not help us? What is the difference between dead religion and biblical Christianity? How are you demonstrating faith in Christ and repentance from your sins? REJOICE that Christ has been raised from the dead! MEDITATE on Romans 8:10-11. PRAY, "Lord Jesus, You are the risen King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Help us to delight in the new life You have won for us. Enable us to walk in this new resurrection life, lovingly obeying You."

### Wednesday

READ **Mark 16:1-8; Romans 8:1-11**. DISCUSS, How is the attitude in the Romans passage different from the Pharisees Jesus scolded in Matthew 23:23-28? How does the resurrection of Christ change us? Why? MEDITATE on Romans 8:10-11. PRAY, “Lord, You have died for us who trust in You. You have risen from the grave for us. Thank You, Lord.”

### Thursday

READ **Mark 16:1-8; John 8:30-36**. DISCUSS, How does Jesus set us free? How can we as a church care for others? How does our unity affect our actions? MEDITATE on Romans 8:10-11. PRAY, “Lord, teach us to love You and our neighbors as You would have us to do.”

### Friday

READ **Mark 16:1-8; 8:31; Matthew 16:21; 17:22-23; 20:17-19; Romans 8:1-11**. How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? MEDITATE on Romans 8:10-11. REJOICE, for Christ has conquered death for us! PRAY for our neighbors to know God and themselves as they truly are and so delight in Christ.

### Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow. READ **Mark 2:23-3:6**. Invite others to come to the 10:30 *worship service* with you tomorrow. Pray for God’s glory to be shown through us as we extend His grace and celebrate it together. MEDITATE on Romans 8:10-11.

## Meditate on Romans 8:10-11

“But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.”