



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

*April 7th, 2024
Communion Sunday*

The Order of Morning Worship

April 7th, 2024

Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Elder Peter Vanderhoof

Prelude & Silent Prayer

- ❖ Call to Worship Isaiah 6:1b-3 Elder
- ❖ Hymn of Exultation #276 *Up From the Grave He Arose* Congregation
- Scriptural Call to Repentance Isaiah 30:15, 18 Elder
- Prayer of Collective Confession Psalm 51 Congregation

Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin! For we know our transgressions, and our sin is ever before us. Against You, You only, have we sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness

Hebrews 2:18

Elder

Pastoral Prayer

Elder

Offering

(collected from back to front)

Congregation

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

Congregation

Elder: Christian, what do you believe concerning God, the Father?

Congregation: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

Elder: What do you believe concerning Jesus?

Congregation: I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was 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 catholic¹ church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

❖ Creedal Song #731	<i>Doxology</i>	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	Exodus 31:12-17	Elder
❖ Hymn of Reflection	<i>Jesus Messiah</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Mark 2:23-3:6	Pastor Doug Warren
<i>“Let Us Find Our Rest in Jesus”</i>		
❖ Hymn of Response #299	<i>Look, Ye Saints, the Sight Is Glorious</i>	Congregation
Communion		Congregation
❖ Communion Hymn #421	<i>Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	Hebrews 13:20-21	Pastor

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Prelude: Fantasia for Easter Morning (Whitworth)

Offertory: Rock of Ages (Young)

Postlude: Toscana on "Darwall's 148th" (Young)

¹ The term "catholic" is used here in its generic sense of the universal church, not to refer to a denomination.

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

William, Ruth, and Fred Beebee by Dan & Rhonda Bruce  
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Save the Date!

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

Sunday, April 21 — Informational Meeting following the worship service

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 — Congregational Prayer Gathering

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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**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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## Easter Sacrificial Offering

Gifts can still be directed to the Easter Sacrificial Offering benefiting Harvest Ministries until Sunday, April 14. Just send your check or digital gift to FCCW with ESO in the memo.

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Letter to the First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Dear Church Family,

Representatives of the Board of Elders, Deacons, and Woodstock Christian Child Care have been meeting with the New Peace Network leaders, David and Judi Glidden, over the last few months to work toward better communication and operational procedures. It has been a positive opportunity for growth and mutual understanding. We would like to update you as to our progress and invite you to an informational meeting after church on **Sunday, April 21**. We hope that many of you will attend to listen and understand what we have learned.

Sincerely,

Doug Warren, Karl Huck, Tom Johnston, Terri DeDell, Peter Vanderhoof, Keri Bristow, and Ruth Brisson

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Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet in the library  
this evening at 6:00 pm.

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April Prayer Letter

Copies are available on the back table. Our missionaries of the month are Steve and Miki Thrall. Pick up a copy of the prayer letter and read about what God is doing through their ministry in Normandy, France, as well as some specific ways you can pray for them and the artists they minister to.

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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. Underneath that, "at First Congregational Church" is written in a smaller, simple font. On the left side, there is a starburst graphic containing the text "FREE EVENT!". In the center, there is a detailed line drawing of a violin. Below the violin, there is a paragraph of text describing 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')." Below this paragraph, it says "No experience necessary, smiles guaranteed! Wear comfortable shoes and bring your water bottle." At the bottom, the date "APRIL 20TH" is displayed in a large font, followed by a vertical line and the event details: "5:30 Chili Supper (food supplied)" and "6:30 - 8:00PM Dance". Below the event details, the address "36 Elm Street Woodstock, VT 05091" is listed. At the very bottom, the website "www.fccw.net" and email "fccwinfo@gmail.com" are provided.

**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

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

10:30 Morning Worship Service:

Mark 2:23-3:6

### **Let Us Find Our Rest in Jesus**

*Because Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath, He is Our Rest.*

- 1. They Accused Jesus of Breaking Sabbath Law (23-24).**
- 2. Jesus Answers that He Is the Lord of the Sabbath (25-28).**
- 3. He Shows Them Sabbath Restoration (1-5).**
- 4. They Refused His Rest (6).**

Conclusion: Mark records for us in this passage the way in which Jesus demonstrated His authority over the God-given Sabbath as a clear proclamation of His divinity. Even more than that, as Lord of the Sabbath, Jesus restores a man's withered hand to show how He is completely our rest. This gospel display reveals *both* Christ's *sufficiency* and the *insufficiency* of the self-righteous, and they hate Him for it. We, however, should rest completely in Him and thus know the joy for which the Sabbath was given us by the Lord.



### **Exodus 20:9-11**

“Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

### **Exodus 31:12-17**

<sup>12</sup> And the Lord said to Moses, <sup>13</sup> “You are to speak to the people of Israel and say, ‘Above all you shall keep my Sabbaths, for this is a sign between me and you throughout your generations, that you may know that I, the Lord, sanctify you.’ <sup>14</sup> You shall keep the Sabbath, because it is holy for you. Everyone who profanes it shall be put to death. Whoever does any work on it, that soul shall be cut off from among his people. <sup>15</sup> Six days shall work be done, but the seventh day is a Sabbath of solemn rest, holy to the Lord. Whoever does any work on the Sabbath day shall be put to death. <sup>16</sup> Therefore the people of Israel shall keep the Sabbath, observing the Sabbath throughout their generations, as a covenant forever. <sup>17</sup> It is a sign forever between me and the people of Israel that in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the seventh day he rested and was refreshed.”

### **Hebrews 4:9-10**

So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

### **First Samuel 21:1-6**

Then David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came to meet David, trembling, and said to him, “Why are you alone, and no one with you?” And David said to Ahimelech the priest, “The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, ‘Let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.’ I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place. Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here.” And the priest answered David, “I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread—if the young men have kept themselves from women.” And David answered the priest, “Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy?” So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the Lord, to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away.

### **Second Corinthians 12:9-12**

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for *my power is made perfect* in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

What does it mean that Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath? And why did that provoke such murderous response from the Pharisees? Jesus is the only source of true rest from our incessant need for approval—God’s, our own, others. His claim to uniquely satisfy us at our deepest need is either our greatest joy or a terrifying exposure of the idols we refuse to let go.

*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 **Mark 2:23-3:6; Exodus 20:9-11; 31:12-17; First Samuel 21:1-6; Second Corinthians 12:9-12; Hebrews 4:9-10.** DISCUSS How does this passage build on the three before it (2:1-22)? How does each relate to Christ’s identity? SERVE someone in need. MEDITATE on **Ezekiel 36:26-27.** PRAY “Lord of the Sabbath, enable us to find our rest in You alone! Soften our hard hearts.”

## Sunday Evening

Young Adult Fellowship meets at **6pm** in the church library (back door).

## Monday

READ **Mark 2:23-3:6; Exodus 20:9-11; Second Corinthians 12:9-12.** DISCUSS How does this passage in Mark help to show how our hearts react to our idols being exposed? How are you resting in Jesus? How are you still striving? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Ezekiel 36:26-27.** PRAY, “Lord of the Sabbath, forgive my idolatry. Please enable me to rest in the sufficiency of Your sacrifice for me.”

## Tuesday

READ **Mark 2:23-3:6; Exodus 31:12-17; Hebrews 4:9-10.** DISCUSS Why does God value the Sabbath so highly? How does Sabbath observance demonstrate trust in Christ? What did the Pharisees miss about the Sabbath? About Christ? SERVE by considering someone else’s needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Ezekiel 36:26-27.** PRAY, “Lord of the Sabbath, forgive my hardness of heart. Enable me to truly let go of my own self-righteousness and cling only to Yours.”

### Wednesday

READ **Mark 2:23-3:6; First Samuel 21:1-6; Second Corinthians 12:9-11**. DISCUSS How was David resting in God's provision? How was the bread his to take? SERVE by *caring about someone else* more than yourself! MEDITATE on **Ezekiel 36:26-27**. PRAY, "Lord of the Sabbath, make us more committed to Your calling in our lives than our own agendas. Free us from our own spiritual resume building."

### Thursday

READ **Mark 2:23-3:6; Second Corinthians 12:9-12; Hebrews 4:9-10**. DISCUSS What does it mean to rest from our works? How do Christ's works enable us to do this? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own*! MEDITATE on **Ezekiel 36:26-27**. PRAY, "Lord of the Sabbath, forgive me my arrogance in thinking my works could compare with Yours. Enable me to trust in You and distrust myself as You lead me by Your Spirit."

### Friday

READ **Mark 2:23-3:6; Exodus 20:9-11; 31:12-17; First Samuel 21:1-6; Second Corinthians 12:9-12; Hebrews 4:9-10**. DISCUSS What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you *this week through these passages*? MEDITATE on **Ezekiel 36:26-27**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *be transformed together by God's Word through Mark*.

### Saturday

PREPARE for *gathered worship tomorrow*. READ **Mark 3:7-35**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *worship service @ 10:30*. Ask Jesus to *reveal Himself to us in His Word by His Spirit*.

## Meditate on Ezekiel 36:26-27

"And *I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.*"