



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

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

*August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



**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.**

❖ Creedal Song #731	<i>Doxology</i>	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	1 Thessalonians 1:4-10	Elder
❖ Hymn of Reflection #674	<i>I Need Thee Every Hour</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Psalm 86:1-17 <i>“The Song of the Weak”</i>	Pastor Doug Warren
❖ Hymn of Response #508	<i>Jesus, Lover of My Soul</i>	Congregation
Communion		Congregation
❖ Communion Hymn #310	<i>Rejoice, the Lord is King!</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	Hebrews 13:20-21	Pastor

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Anne Hablitzel ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

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**Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet tonight  
at 6 pm in the church library.**  
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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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## Save the Date!

- Friday, August 11** — 4:30-6:30 pm WCCC's Blessing and Farewell Ceremony
- Sunday, August 13** — 4:00-7:00 pm Cookout and Missionary Visit with the Megills
- Saturday August 19th** — 2:00-4:00 pm Jean & John Panoushek memorial at the South Woodstock Fire Station
- Friday, August 25** — 5:00-7:00 pm COT Hot Dogs & S'mores on the FCCW lawn
- Saturday, August 26** — 8:00 am-6:30 pm Jonathan Edwards Historical Bus Tour
- Wednesday, August 30** — 6:30-7:30 pm 250 Years of Amazing Grace—a History of FCCW presentation at the Woodstock History Center
- Saturday, September 9** — 11:00 am-1:00 pm Alice Frick Memorial Service
- Sunday, October 29** — Missionary Visit with the Klassens (stay tuned for details!)
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## Mission Board Potluck

Are you looking for a fun and spiritually uplifting evening?

Save the date of August 13 at 4 PM for an evening with the whole Megill family. The Mission Board invites you to come to a potluck on August 13 at 4 PM. The board will be cooking hot dogs and hamburgers to complement your food offerings. Please bring a generous amount to share for the dinner with all who attend. The Megills will be bringing a powerpoint presentation to update us. We will be having dessert afterwards.

Come on out and meet and greet the Megill family!

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## Nursery Volunteers Needed

Can you give one Sunday to help minister to the youngest members of our church family? If you are willing to help one Sunday or more, you can find the sign-up sheet in the Billings Room, or contact Karis Warren at [karis.warren@gmail.com](mailto:karis.warren@gmail.com) or (207) 329-4190. Thank you!

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The August Prayer Letter is available on the back table.

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## Nursery Staff Position

We are looking for someone to serve as a Nursery Staff Person on Sunday mornings, from 9-noon September through May, and 9-11 am in the summer. Please join us in praying for the Lord to raise up someone who loves Jesus and children and who would be the anchor for caring for the little ones assisted by volunteers from the congregation. For more information, please contact Kristen at [info@fccw.net](mailto:info@fccw.net) or (207) 653-3754. Thank you.

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## You are Invited to WCCC's Blessing and Farewell Ceremony

WCCC's Blessing and Farewell Ceremony is scheduled for Friday, August 11. We will meet in the sanctuary at 4:30 for a short program followed by a barbeque. All the children will join together to sing a few songs, and then we will present gifts to those children who will be moving on to Public School. After the ceremony, we will have a delicious barbeque catered by Maple Street Catering. If you have any questions, please contact Ruth Brisson at [rbrissonwccc@gmail.com](mailto:rbrissonwccc@gmail.com) or Terri DeDell at [tdedellwccc@gmail.com](mailto:tdedellwccc@gmail.com).

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## 250 Years of Amazing Grace

If you were unable to join our evening of music and history, as we looked back over God's grace to FCCW since our first gathering 250 years ago, there is a video recording available. It can be viewed at:

[sermonaudio.com/sermon/7272314859449](http://sermonaudio.com/sermon/7272314859449)

Preston Bristow will also be sharing his digital slide presentation on the history of FCCW at the Woodstock History Center on **Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30**. All are welcome to attend.

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## Greeters Needed

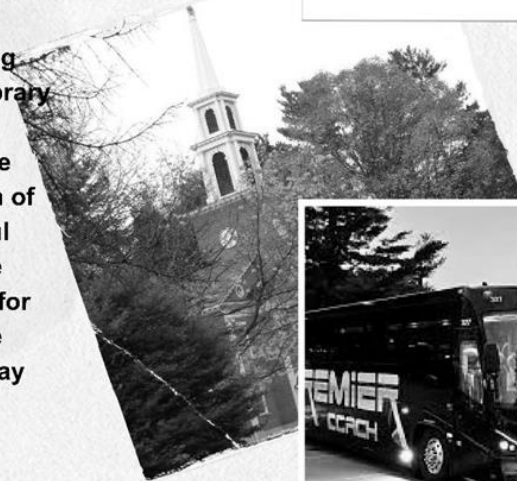
Would you like to help welcome folks to worship on Sunday mornings? We need two volunteers each Sunday from 9:10 until the beginning of worship. If you would like to serve in this way there is a sign-up sheet in the Billings Room near the punch bowl. Questions? Contact Diana Snider at [dennisssnider@msn.com](mailto:dennisssnider@msn.com).

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**Saturday, August 26, 2023**  
**HISTORY & FELLOWSHIP RETREAT**  
Jonathan Edwards, Greatest  
Theologian of the Great Awakening  
**Stockbridge, MA**

- Why did Jonathan Edwards leave his Northampton MA pulpit after 25 years?
- Why did Edwards go to a tiny frontier church as a missionary to the Mohicans?
- Where did Edwards write his celebrated Freedom of the Will?
- Why was Edwards the Princeton University president with the shortest tenure?

You will learn all this and more when you join us for a special day trip to Stockbridge, MA, one of the Berkshires' most charming towns with a rich artistic and colonial history. We will learn about this highly influential revivalist preacher, philosopher, and theologian. In the morning we will visit the Edwards Sundial, the Children's Chimes Tower, the Mission House, the Edwards "rotating desk" at the Stockbridge Library Museum, the pink granite Edward's Monument, and the First Congregational Church of Stockbridge, all with Dr. Paul Hoehner as our guide. In the afternoon we will have time for lunch and sightseeing in the historic downtown. Some may want to visit the Norman Rockwell Museum.



We will meet at the Woodstock Union High School parking lot on the morning of Saturday, August 26. Our comfortable Premier Coach will leave at 8:00 AM sharp, returning that evening at approximately 6:30 PM.

Payment is required in advance by check, cash, Venmo or Zelle. Due to the generous support of several individuals, the trip is being offered at the very low cost of \$25 per person for the bus and tour. Please expect to pay for lunch or bring your own. Admission to the Norman Rockwell Museum is also extra.

**Please contact Preston Bristow [prestonbristow@gmail.com](mailto:prestonbristow@gmail.com) with any questions about the trip, and Terri DeDell [tdedellwccc@gmail.com](mailto:tdedellwccc@gmail.com) for registration and payment.**



# Mid Vermont Christian School

*Educating for Impact*

## **We are hiring - We are growing!**

We are seeking qualified and enthusiastic individuals who have a passion for being a missionary in Christian Education in Vermont!

### **Full-time openings:**

- Elementary School Teacher
- Junior Senior High School Math and Elective Teacher

### **Part-time openings:** (These could be put together for a full-time position.)

- Elementary General Music Teacher
- Junior Senior High School Foreign Language Teacher
- After School Care Director
- Student Support Services Director
- Athletic Director
- Physical Education Teacher

Call MVCS @ 802-295-6800 or email [headofschool@mvcs.info](mailto:headofschool@mvcs.info) for more information or to apply.





## **Acts 16:23-25**

After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. When he received these orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were *praying and singing hymns to God*, and the other prisoners were listening to them.

## **First Corinthians 14:15-17**

So what shall I do? *I will pray* with my spirit, but I will also *pray* with my understanding; I will *sing* with my spirit, but I will also *sing* with my understanding. Otherwise, when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer, say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified.

## **First Thessalonians 1:4-10**

<sup>4</sup>For we know, *brothers loved by God*, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. <sup>6</sup>And *you became imitators of us and of the Lord*, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, <sup>7</sup>so that *you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia*. <sup>8</sup>For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but *your faith in God* has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. <sup>9</sup>For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how *you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God*, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

## **James 5:13-16**

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them *pray*. Is anyone happy? Let them *sing songs of praise*. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the *prayer offered in faith* will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore, *confess your sins to each other and pray for each other* so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

## **Romans 12:3-8**

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: *Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you*. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and *each member belongs to all the others*. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy *in accordance with your faith*; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

David has been anointed, he was God's chosen king, and yet he was besieged and downcast. His song sung in weakness to the mighty God helps us to understand how we too can trust in our covenant-keeping God. Not just because David did so, but because the same God he could trust is the God who has shown Himself faithful as our God too.

*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 **Psalm 86:1-17; 28:1-9; 40:1-17; 70:1-5; 109:1-31; Acts 16:23-25; First Corinthians 14:15-17; First Thessalonians 1:4-10; James 5:13-16; Romans 12:3-8.** DISCUSS In what ways are you "poor and needy" today? Why? How is God's character your great comfort? MEDITATE on **Philippians 1:18b-21.** PRAY "Lord, *You* have displayed Your character on the cross. Teach us to trust in You."

## Sunday Evening

**Young Adult Fellowship** meets at 6pm in the church library.

## Monday

READ **Psalm 86:1-17; Acts 16:23-25; First Corinthians 14:15-17; Psalm 28:1-9.** DISCUSS What did Paul and Silas do in prison? Why? How did that demonstrate faith in God? SERVE by taking time to help someone! MEDITATE on **Philippians 1:18b-21.** PRAY, "Father God, You are faithful throughout generations; enable us to trust in You."

## Tuesday

READ **Psalm 86:1-17; First Corinthians 14:15-17; First Thessalonians 1:4-10; Psalm 40:1-17.** DISCUSS How do song and prayer demonstrate faith? How can you sing in your circumstance? MEDITATE on **Philippians 1:18b-21.** PRAY, "O Lord, our God, You alone are God. We praise You for Your matchless faithfulness. Make us more and more like Christ in our faithfulness to You."

### Wednesday

READ **Psalm 86:1-17; Psalm 70:1-5; First Thessalonians 1:4-10; James 5:13-16**. DISCUSS How can we respond like our brothers and sisters in Thessalonica? What was it about their faith that was commendable? Why? MEDITATE on **Philippians 1:18b-21**. PRAY, “O Lord, You alone are worthy of all praise. Thank You for the gift of faith with which we might praise You.”

### Thursday

READ **Psalm 86:1-17; James 5:13-16; Romans 12:3-8; Psalm 109:1-31**. DISCUSS How are we to view ourselves rightly? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Philippians 1:18b-21**. PRAY, “Our Great God, empower us to live by faith in You and so encourage one another to do the same.”

### Friday

READ **Psalm 86:1-17; 28:1-9; 40:1-17; 70:1-5; 109:1-31; Acts 16:23-25; First Corinthians 14:15-17; First Thessalonians 1:4-10; James 5:13-16; Romans 12:3-8**. DISCUSS What has God been teaching you this week? SERVE by *caring for someone in need!* MEDITATE on **Philippians 1:18b-21**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *trust Christ together*.

### Saturday

PREPARE today for *gathered Sunday worship tomorrow*. CONSIDER What can you do today to be better prepared for gathering with God’s people tomorrow? READ **Psalm 34:1-22**. *Invite others to join you tomorrow for the worship service @ 9:30 am*. PRAY, “Lord, prepare Your people for Your praises. Gather us together to delight in You.”

## Philippians 1:18b-21

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that *through your prayers and God’s provision* of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.