



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

October 30th, 2022

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Pre-Service Music: All Glory, Laud, and Honor (Gawthrop)

Offertory: A Mighty Fortress (J. C. Bach)

Postlude: Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven (Hildebrand)

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Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet tonight  
at 6 pm in the church library.  
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Winter Coat and Food Drive

Your help is needed!

COT is still in need of volunteers to help with FCCW's Winter Coat & Food Drive, Sat. Nov 5th from 9am-12pm at FCCW.

- Helpers to assist outdoors collecting items from vehicles at curbside 9a-12p
- Helpers to assist indoors sorting coats, gloves, hats 9a-12p
- Driver to drop off food items to Woodstock Food Shelf after the event. Ideally with truck or trailer.

For volunteer sign up, please call or email Hayley Bauer 785-727-0756 hayleyLgriffith@gmail.com.

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Thanksgiving Fellowship

Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> will mark the return of our Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal and special Service of Thanksgiving. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for details.  
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## Annual Meeting Warning

Notice: The members of the First Congregational Church of Woodstock, Vermont, Inc., are called to meet on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7:00 pm to conduct the following business:

1. To vote on a motion to suspend the bylaw-required Board and Committee number requirements for 2023;
2. To vote on the Elders' nomination of:
  - a) Stephen Briggs to a first four-year term on the Board of Elders
  - b) Dennis Snider to a first four-year term on the Board of Elders
  - c) Karl Huck to a second four-year term on the Board of Deacons
  - d) Mike Burnett to a first four-year term on the Board of Deacons;
3. To vote on the Nominating Slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee;
4. To review and vote on the 2023 Budgets, including the normal operating budget, major expense budget and Woodstock Christian Child Care budget, as proposed by the Board of Deacons;
5. To vote and approve the minutes of the November 11, 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting;
6. To address any other business that is properly brought before the membership;
7. To join in a closing prayer.

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Concert of Prayer

Calling all members and regular attenders of FCCW! We will be gathering Friday night, November 4, at 7 pm for a concert of prayer. Our focus will be asking the Lord to guide us as we reach out together by faith in Christ. We want to faithfully love our neighbors in word and deed to the honor of Jesus. This evening of prayer should be a great time in God's presence together with praise music and prayer.

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Nominating Committee Slate for 2023

Christian Education

25 Preston Bristow (2)
25 Cora Koop (2)

Christian Missions

25 Anne Koop (2)
25 Charlotte Gomo

Deaconesses

23 Diana Snider
23 Heidi Tucker
24 Alison Briggs
25 Rosmarie Vanderhoof

Flower

24 Elaine Johnston

Library

25 Carol Williams

Outreach

25 Keri Bristow (2)
25 Sheryl Hoehner (2)

Nominating

25 Robyn Huck

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## Tuesday Morning Ladies' Bible Study

The Ladies' Bible Study meets in person at 10:00 am each Tuesday at the Thompson Senior Center and via Zoom. Contact Bonnie Atwood at (802) 457-4120 or [bonhope2@gmail.com](mailto:bonhope2@gmail.com) for more information.

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True Woman Bible Study

This Bible study is geared toward young moms although all women are welcome. The study meets on Thursday mornings from 10-11:30 am in the FCCW nursery; there is no childcare, but children ages infant to preschool are welcome to come along and play while the ladies meet. Contact Christine Morton at christinefmorton@gmail.com or (802) 591-1511 for more information.

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## **Empowered to Rejoice in Everything**

1. **We Must *Rejoice in Christ* Together in Every Situation!**

2. **How Can We Do This?!**

3. **We Must Both Receive & Share Resurrection Hope!**

CONCLUSION: This passage contains one of the most misunderstood and misapplied verses in the Bible. “*I can do everything through him who gives me strength.*” It is not a glib declaration of some imagined superhuman abilities, but relief in the freedom won in Christ’s resurrection that empowers us to rejoice in Christ together in every situation. It is the liberty found not in autonomy, but in submission to our good and loving God who has conquered death for us. It is the joy that enables martyrs to praise Christ with delight even as they face horrific deaths. Let us rejoice together in whatever our sovereign Lord brings us in the strength of Christ who went to the cross for the joy set before Him by His loving Father.

## **Second Corinthians 1:8-11**

<sup>8</sup> For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers *and sisters*, of our affliction which occurred in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, *beyond our strength*, so that we despaired even of life. <sup>9</sup> Indeed, we had the sentence of death within ourselves so that we would not trust in ourselves, but in God who raises the dead, <sup>10</sup> who rescued us from so great a *danger of death*, and will rescue *us*, He on whom we have set our hope. And He will yet deliver us, <sup>11</sup> *if you also join in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons in our behalf for the favor granted to us through the prayers of many.*

## **First Timothy 6:13-19**

I direct you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who testified the good confession before Pontius Pilate, <sup>14</sup> that you keep the commandment without fault or reproach until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>15</sup> which *He will bring about at the proper time*—He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, <sup>16</sup> who alone possesses immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To Him be honor and eternal dominion! Amen.

<sup>17</sup> Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or *to set their hope* on the uncertainty of riches, *but on God*, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. <sup>18</sup> Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup> storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, *so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.*

## **Second Corinthians 5:17-19**

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *this person is a new creation*; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all *these things* are from God, *who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation*, namely, that God was *in Christ reconciling the world to Himself*, not counting their wrongdoings against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

## **John 11:25-27**

Jesus said to her, *“I am the resurrection and the life; the one who believes in Me will live, even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”* She said to Him, *“Yes, Lord; I have come to believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, and He who comes into the world.”*

## **Isaiah 26:19**

Your *dead shall live*; their bodies shall rise. You who dwell in the dust, awake and *sing for joy!* For your dew is a dew of light, and the earth will give birth to the dead.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

The power of Christ's resurrection sets us free from sin and death. It is also how we can rejoice now. Certain hope in the resurrection empowers us to count all things joy because our good and trustworthy God is working all things together for our salvation and eventual resurrection.

*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 **Philippians 4:10-14; 2 Corinthians 1:8-11; 5:17-19; 1 Timothy 6:13-19; John 11:25-27; Psalm 33:17-22; Isaiah 26:19.** DISCUSS How are we together expressing our confidence in our coming resurrection? How do your daily habits or disciplines reflect this? How does God's victory delight you? MEDITATE on **Galatians 2:20.** PRAY "Jesus, empower us to rejoice in You together in every situation."

## Sunday Evening

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

## Monday

READ **Philippians 4:10-14; 2 Corinthians 1:8-11; 5:17-19; Isaiah 26:19.** DISCUSS What should we expect in terms of difficulties? What enables us to see hardships as blessing rather than curses? How do our circumstances testify to God's goodness? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Galatians 2:20.** PRAY, "Lord, use whatever You will to conform us to Christ."

## Tuesday

READ **Philippians 4:10-14; 2 Corinthians 5:17-19; 1 Timothy 6:13-19; Isaiah 26:19.** DISCUSS How does Christ's raising us as new creatures empower us to rejoice? SERVE by considering someone else's needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Galatians 2:20.** PRAY, "Jesus, forgive us for the ways that we doubt the resurrection and its effects in our lives. Teach us to trust You as we should."



### Wednesday

READ **Philippians 4:10-14; John 11:25-27; Acts 17:29-32; Isaiah 26:19.** DISCUSS What is the significance of Christ's resurrection? How does confident hope in the resurrection empower us to rejoice in every situation together? How do you need to repent from lack of hope? SERVE by *caring about someone else* more than yourself! MEDITATE on **Galatians 2:20.** PRAY, "Lord, *forgive us for being dissatisfied with You.* Make our hearts delight in You foremost."

### Thursday

READ **Philippians 4:10-14; Psalm 33:17-22; Isaiah 26:19.** DISCUSS What is our hope? What false hopes vie for our affection? How? How do we resist such false hopes? MEDITATE on **Galatians 2:20.** PRAY, "Lord, we long to hope only and always in You and the resurrection life You have secured for us. Make us so."

### Friday

READ **Philippians 4:10-14; 2 Corinthians 1:8-11; 5:17-19; 1 Timothy 6:13-19; John 11:25-27; Psalm 33:17-22; Isaiah 26:19.** DISCUSS, What have you been learning from these passages? How has God been encouraging you in His Word this week? What do you need to change as a result? MEDITATE on **Galatians 2:20.** PRAY that we at FCCW would *honor Christ in all that we think, say, and do.*

### Saturday

PREPARE *today* for the service *tomorrow.* READ **Philippians 4:1-23.** Invite others to join you tomorrow for *Sunday School at 9:00* and the *service @ 10:30.* Ask Jesus to *gather us together* to praise Him joyfully.

## Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but *Christ lives in me;* and the *life* which I now live in the flesh *I live by faith in the Son of God,* who loved me and gave Himself up for me.