



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

*November 5th, 2023
Reformation Sunday*

The Order of Morning Worship

November 5th, 2023

Reformation Sunday

Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Elder Steve Briggs

Prelude & Silent Prayer

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| ❖ Call to Worship | Psalm 34:1-3 | Elder |
| ❖ Hymn of Exultation #92 | <i>A Mighty Fortress</i> | Congregation |
| Scriptural Call to Repentance | Isaiah 55:6-7 | Elder |
| Prayer of Collective Confession | from Psalm 25 | Congregation |

Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Remember not the sins of our youth or our transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember us, for the sake of your goodness, O LORD! Good and upright is the LORD; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. For Your name's sake, O LORD, pardon our guilt, for it is great. Turn to us and be gracious to us, for we are lonely and afflicted. The troubles of our hearts are enlarged; bring us out of our distresses. Consider our affliction and our trouble, and forgive all our sins.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness Colossians 2:13-14 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	First Corinthians 10:23-33	Elder
❖ Hymn of Reflection #727	<i>Lead Me, Lord, Lead Me in Thy Righteousness</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Exodus 20:15	Pastor Doug Warren
	<i>“Look to Yahweh for All Your Needs”</i>	
❖ Hymn of Response #53	<i>Praise to the Lord, the Almighty</i>	Congregation
Communion		Congregation
❖ Communion Hymn #420	<i>At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	Romans 15:13	Pastor
	<i>The Congregation may be seated after the Benediction for silent prayer.</i>	

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Prelude: Come, Thou Almighty King (Whitworth)

Offertory: Rejoice (Getty)

Postlude: Prelude in Bb Major (Bach)

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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Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet tonight  
at 6 pm in the church library.  
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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 9th, 2023, at 7:00 pm to conduct the following business:

1. To vote on a motion to suspend the bylaw-required term break of 2023 for Kerilyn Bristow's second three-year term on the Woodstock Christian Child Care Board and extend it by one year, concluding 2024;
 2. To vote on the Nominating Slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee;
 3. To review and vote on the 2024 Budgets, including the normal operating budget and major expense budget, as proposed by the Board of Deacons, and to review the Woodstock Christian Child Care budget, as proposed by the WCCC board and approved by the Board of Deacons;
 4. To vote and approve the minutes of the November 10, 2022 Annual Congregational Meeting;
 5. To vote and approve the minutes of the April 30, 2023 Special 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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## Nominating Committee Slate for 2024

### **Deaconesses**

26 Heidi Tucker  
25 Jennifer Barnes

### **Flower**

26 Christine Morton (2)  
26 Alison Briggs

### **Hospitality**

26 Carol Williams (2)  
26 Gail Owens  
25 Rhonda Bruce

### **Nominating**

26 Nancy Stockwell

### **Nursery**

26 Kristen Warren (2)  
25 Annie Denham

### **WCCC**

26 Shelley VanderWende  
26 Jim VanderWende  
26 Robert Crean  
24 Keri Bristow (2)

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Save the Date!

Thursday, November 9 — 7:00 pm-9:00 pm Annual Meeting

Friday, November 17-Saturday, November 18 — Living at Peace Workshop

Sunday, November 19 — Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal and Worship Service

Friday, December 8-Saturday, December 9 — Wassail Weekend

Friday, 4:30 & 5:30 pm — FCCW Building & History Tours

Friday, 5:00 pm — Organ Concert

Saturday, 11:00 am-2:00 pm — Hot Wassail and DIY s'mores on the lawn

Saturday, 2:00 pm — Wassail Parade Watch Party

Saturday, 3:00 pm — The Ten of NYC Concert

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## Volunteers Needed!

COT will host Wassail drinks and s'mores on the FCCW front lawn Sat Dec 9th from 11am-2pm. We need **at least six** volunteers serving in shifts. You can help with preparing the wassail in the morning, serving wassail from 11-2, and/or cleaning up from 2-3pm.

Contact Keri Bristow at [kerilynbristow@gmail.com](mailto:kerilynbristow@gmail.com) to sign up!

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## Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner—November 19

All are welcome to join in fellowship with church friends and family on Sunday, November 19 for a Thanksgiving meal. Turkeys, gravy and cranberry sauce will be supplied via the elders and we ask each family to bring a traditional side dish to share. Potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, salads, desserts, whatever you enjoy!

There is a sign-up list in the Billings Room to help the planning and also a place to help out on the big day! We need helpers to set up tables and chairs after Sunday School, kitchen helpers after the church service to set tables and work in the kitchen, table clearers and dishwashers after the meal, and breakdown of the tables and chairs and resetting the Billings Room. Finally, if someone would provide table decorations, that is also welcome!

There will be NO Coffee Hour (but there will be coffee for the helpers!) on November 19. The meal begins at 2:00pm and the service will start closer to 3:30pm.

Please contact Keri Bristow (603 359-3948 or [kerilynbristow@gmail.com](mailto:kerilynbristow@gmail.com)) with questions and if you can help with any of the above needs for help! 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.

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.

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Join the WCCC Teaching Team!

Are you looking for rewarding work with young children, part or full time? Woodstock Christian Child Care (WCCC) has immediate openings for part-time or full-time Trainees, Teacher Assistants, or Teachers for our full-day program for ages 6 weeks to PreK, and our After School Program for PreK to Grade 2. This is a great opportunity for college students interested in ECE, nursing, or human services to gain experience. WCCC has been serving children and families in the area for 29 years. If you are 18 years old or older, enjoy children, or would like to explore a career in early childhood education, please contact the WCCC Executive Director Ruth Brisson at rbrissonwccc@gmail.com. Thank you!

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## **Look to Yahweh for All Your Needs**

“You shall not steal.”

1. **Everything We Have Has Been Given Us by God.**
2. **We Are Stewards of His Resources for His Glory.**
3. **Christ Has Secured Our Inheritance.**

CONCLUSION: Everything belongs to God. He is the Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer. There is not a quark, ray of light, unit of energy, thought, or nano-second in all of Creation that does not belong to God. As Sovereign He is free to use, give or dispose of anything and everything as He sees fit. Our stealing or “taking sideways” anything is taking from Him and an affront to His rule and reign. Instead of stealing we should be managing everything He entrusts to our care in a way that is mindful of others and not just ourselves.



## Westminster Larger Catechism

**Q. 141.** What are the *duties required* in the eighth commandment?

**A.** The *duties required* in the eighth commandment are, truth, faithfulness, and justice in contracts and commerce between man and man; rendering to everyone his due; restitution of goods unlawfully detained from the right owners thereof; giving and lending freely, according to our abilities, and the necessities of others; moderation of our judgments, wills, and affections, concerning worldly goods; a provident care and study to get, keep, use, and dispose of those things which are necessary and convenient for the sustentation of our nature, and suitable to our condition; a lawful calling, and diligence in it; frugality; avoiding unnecessary lawsuits, and suretyship, or other like engagements; and an endeavor, by all just and lawful means, to procure, preserve, and further the wealth and outward estate of others, as well as our own.

Ps. 15:2, 4; Zech. 7:4, 10; Zech. 8:16-17; Rom. 13:7; Lev. 6:2-5; Luke 19:8; Luke 6:30, 38; 1 John 3:17; Eph. 4:28; Gal. 6:10; 1 Tim. 6:6-9; Gal. 6:14; 1 Tim. 5:8; Prov. 27:23-27; Ecc. 2:24; Ecc. 3:12-13; 1 Tim. 6:17-18; Isa. 38:1; Matt. 11: 8; 1 Cor. 7:20; Gen. 2:15; Gen. 3:19; Eph. 4:28; Prov. 10:4; John 6:12; Prov. 21:20; 1 Cor. 6:1-9; Prov. 6:1-6; Prov. 11:15; Lev. 25:35; Deut. 22:1-4; Ex. 23:4-5; Gen. 47:14, 20; Phil. 2:4; Matt. 22:39.

**Q. 142.** What are the *sins forbidden* in the eighth commandment?

**A.** The *sins forbidden* in the eighth commandment, besides the neglect of the duties required, are, theft, robbery, man-stealing, and receiving any thing that is stolen; fraudulent dealing; false weights and measures; removing landmarks; injustice and unfaithfulness in contracts between man and man, or in matters of trust; oppression; extortion; usury; bribery; vexatious lawsuits; unjust inclosures and depopulations; engrossing commodities to enhance the price, unlawful callings, and all other unjust or sinful ways of taking or withholding from our neighbor what belongs to him, or of enriching ourselves; covetousness; inordinate prizing and affecting worldly goods; distrustful and distracting cares and studies in getting, keeping, and using them; envying at the prosperity of others; as likewise idleness, prodigality, wasteful gaming; and all others ways whereby we do unduly prejudice our own outward estate, and defrauding ourselves of the due use and comfort of that estate which God hath given us.

Jas. 2:15-16; 1 John 3:17; Eph. 4:28; Ps. 62:10; 1 Tim. 1:10; Prov. 29:24; Ps. 1:18; 1 Thess. 4:6; Prov. 11:1; Prov. 20:10; Deut. 19:14; Prov. 23:10; Amos 8:5; Ps. 37:21; Luke 16:10-12; Ezek. 22:29; Lev. 25:17; Matt. 23:25; Ezek. 22:12; Ps. 15:5; Job 15:34; 1 Cor. 6:6-8; Prov. 3:29-30; Isa. 5:8; Mic. 2:2; Prov. 11:26; Acts 19:19, 24-25; Job 20:19; Jas. 5:4; Prov. 21:6; Luke 12:15; 1 Tim. 6:5; Col. 3:2; Prov. 23:5; Ps. 62:10; Matt. 6:25, 31, 34; Ecc. 5:12; Ps. 73:3; Ps. 37:1, 7; 2 Thess. 3:11; Prov. 18:9; Prov. 21:17; Prov. 23:20-21; Prov. 28:19; Ecc. 4:8; Ecc. 6:2; 1 Tim. 5:8.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

What do you have? Why? Where did it come from? How would God have you manage His resources in ways that are good for you and others and glorifying to His name? What does it mean to shrewdly steward the resources He has entrusted to you? How can we help one another manage His Kingdom resources according to His priorities and values?

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ.*

## Sunday Morning

READ **Exodus 3:20-22; 11:1-2; 20:15; First Corinthians 10:23-33; Second Corinthians 8-9; Deuteronomy 15:7-8; Psalm 24:1-10; 119:97-112.** DISCUSS How do you view stuff, time, ideas in relationship to Christ's Kingdom? Why? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 4:28; Exodus 19:5-6a** with WLC #141-2.

PRAY EACH DAY THIS WEEK "Lord of Creation, all the earth is Yours. Forgive us for taking from You and others to whom You have entrusted resources for Your purposes. Teach us to trust You for all that we need and to glorify You with all that You give us to steward for Your Kingdom."

## Sunday Evening

The **Young Adult Fellowship Group** will meet tonight at 6pm.

## Monday

READ **Exodus 20:15; Exodus 3:20-22; 11:1-2; Psalm 119:97-112.** DISCUSS In the fight between Pharaoh & God *what is the significance of Israel plundering Egypt?* SERVE Give time helping someone! MEDITATE on **Ephesians 4:28; Exodus 19:5-6a** with WLC #141-2.

## Tuesday

READ **Exodus 20:15; First Corinthians 10:23-33; Psalm 119:97-112.** DISCUSS How do these verses in Corinthians *treat resources with a Kingdom focus?* What is the most challenging part of this for you? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 4:28; Exodus 19:5-6a** & WLC #141-2.

### Wednesday

READ **Exodus 20:15; Second Corinthians 8-9; Psalm 119:81-96.**  
DISCUSS How do these principles for giving to the Lord help us to develop a Kingdom mindset for money, time, and resources? How are you glorifying Christ in your stewardship? MEDITATE on **Ephesians 4:28; Exodus 19:5-6a** with WLC #141-2.

### Thursday

READ **Exodus 20:15; Deuteronomy 15:7-8; Psalm 119:81-96.**  
DISCUSS How are love for one another and our use of our resources related? Why? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Ephesians 4:28; Exodus 19:5-6a** with WLC #141-2.

### Friday

READ **Exodus 3:20-22; 11:1-2; 20:15; First Corinthians 10:23-33; Second Corinthians 8-9; Deuteronomy 15:7-8; Psalm 24:1-10; 119:97-112.** DISCUSS What has God been teaching you this week? SERVE by *caring for someone in need!* MEDITATE on **Ephesians 4:28; Exodus 19:5-6a** with WLC #141-2.

### Saturday

PREPARE today for *gathered Sunday worship tomorrow.* READ **Exodus 20:1-21.** *Invite others to join you tomorrow for the worship service @ 10:30 am.*

## Ephesians 4:28

Let the **thief** no longer steal,  
but rather *let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands,*  
*so that he may have something to share with anyone in need.*

## Exodus 19:5-6a

Now therefore, *if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant,*  
you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples,  
for **all the earth is mine;**  
and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.'