



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

January 21st, 2024

three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

Deacons' Offering	(collected from back to front)	Congregation
❖ Creedal Song #735	<i>Gloria Patri</i>	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	Pastor	
❖ Hymn of Reflection #688	<i>Have Thine Own Way, Lord</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	First John 4:7-16 <i>"Love Within the Godhead"</i>	Pastor
❖ Hymn of Response #101	<i>Come, Thou Almighty King</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	2 Corinthians 13:14	Pastor

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Prelude: Alleluias (Rawsthorne)

Offertory: Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart (Hayes/Wagner)

Deacons' Offering: How Great/Psalm 145 (CityAlight)

Postlude: Come, Thou Almighty King (Whitworth)

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**Save the Date!**

**Friday, February 2-Saturday, February 3** — Intro to FCCW Workshop

**Sunday, February 18** — Visit from Teen Challenge Women's Ministry  
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The January Prayer Letter is available on the back table.
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## Deacons' Offering – Today, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

Our church receives many requests for help from not just within our church body but the community at large. The deacons have a great many opportunities to share God's love with folks in need, whether it is paying a bill for them or buying them a pair of glasses. This is a vital ministry that our church has to reach into our communities and share the gospel in a loving, gracious way. If you are in need or know someone who is, please contact Dan Bruce, the Deacons' Mercy Minister at home (802) 457-3975, at his cell number (802) 345-8870, or email him at [rhondan08@myfairpoint.net](mailto:rhondan08@myfairpoint.net).

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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, **February 2**, from **6-9 pm** (includes dinner) and **Saturday** morning, **February 3**, from **9 am-noon** (includes continental breakfast.) This two-part workshop will give insight into how FCCW functions and the importance of membership. Please contact Kristen at [fccwinfo@gmail.com](mailto:fccwinfo@gmail.com) to register.

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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## 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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Theological Series—Our Triune God of Love

10:30 Morning Worship Service:

1 John 4:7-16

Love Within the Godhead

- 1. Who is God and how do you know?**
- 2. He has revealed Himself in the Bible.**
- 3. One God in Three Persons: Father, Son, & Holy Spirit.**
- 4. This relationship is at the heart of God's Essence.**
- 5. All Three Love One Another Perfectly—God Is Love.**
- 6. This Love Has Been Lavished Upon Us.**

Conclusion: The God of the Bible, the Christian God, is unique in all of Human History. He alone is God, the true and living God, and there is none like Him. At the same time He exists forever as three distinct persons while remaining one God. This truth, what we call the *doctrine of the Trinity* is of great comfort to all who place our faith in Him. For He alone is worthy to be praised and His essence requires that He is good and loving so that our praise never misshapes Him. He is forever loving and true. His generous, overflowing love continues to delight within the Trinity and to overflow upon us as Christ's Beloved.

1 John 4:7-16

⁷ Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. ⁸ Anyone who does not love does not know God, because **God is love**. ⁹ In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent **his only Son** into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, **if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another**. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his **Spirit**. ¹⁴ And we have seen and testify that **the Father** has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. **God is love**, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

Galatians 4:1-7

I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave, though he is the owner of everything, ² but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. ³ In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

Westminster Shorter Catechism

4. What is God?

God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal, and unchangeable, in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.

5. Are there more Gods than one?

There is but one only, the living and true God.

6. How many persons are there in the Godhead?

There are three persons in the Godhead; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one God, the same in substance, equal in power and glory.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

What is God like? How do you know? The God of the Bible doesn't leave us to grope in the dark with our finite minds or to wish with our broken hearts, or even to dream with our enslaved wills; He introduces Himself to us in the Bible. He reveals Himself in a way we could never guess. He is eternally one God in three persons. As we will increasingly see, it makes all the difference in the world!

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 **Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Second Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 4:7-16; Galatians 4:1-7**. DISCUSS How does God differ from how you might imagine Him? What difference does His unity make? How about His diversity? SERVE someone in need. MEDITATE on **1 John 4:7-16**. PRAY “Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, please continue to show us who You are in the truth of Your Word.”

Monday

READ **Deuteronomy 6:4–5; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 4:7-16; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11**. DISCUSS How do God's gifts to His people reflect the unity and diversity of the Trinity? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **1 John 4:7-16**. PRAY, “Lord, You are majestic above our imagining. We praise You!”

Tuesday

READ **Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Second Corinthians 1:19-22; 13:14; 1 John 4:7-16**. DISCUSS What does it mean that all the promises of God have their “yes” in Christ? How are each of the members of the Trinity involved in our salvation? SERVE by considering someone else's needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **1 John 4:7-16**. PRAY, “Lord God, thank You for entering into covenant with us. Thank You for Your promise to be our God and take us as Your people. Enable us to live as becomes Your holy sons and daughters in Christ.”

Wednesday

READ **Deuteronomy 6:4–5; 1 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 4:7-16; Matthew 3:16-17**. DISCUSS How did being unequally yoked inhibit Solomon? How do you need to repent from similar faithlessness? SERVE by *caring about someone else* more than yourself! MEDITATE on **1 John 4:7-16**. PRAY, “Lord, forgive us our sins for they are many and You are Holy.”

Thursday

READ **Deuteronomy 6:4–5; 2 Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 4:7-16; John 14:25-31**. DISCUSS Whom did Jesus promise to send His disciples? Why? Why was it better for Jesus to go? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own*! MEDITATE on **1 John 4:7-16**. PRAY, “Triune Lord, You give us all that we have. You are forever kind and gracious to Your people. Please receive our humble gratitude and forgive us our presumption.”

Friday

READ **Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Second Corinthians 13:14; 1 John 4:7-16; Galatians 4:1-7**. DISCUSS, What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you this week through these passages? MEDITATE on **1 John 4:7-16**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *truly delight in God’s goodness together*.

Saturday

PREPARE for *gathered worship tomorrow*. READ **John 1:1-18**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *worship service @ 10:30*. Ask Jesus to *help us adore Him through obedience as we gather*.

Base Camp — *God is one and three*

“Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is *one*. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”
—**Deuteronomy 6:4–5**

The grace of the **Lord Jesus Christ** and the love of **God** and the fellowship of the **Holy Spirit** be with you all.”

—**Second Corinthians 13:14**