



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

March 12th, 2023

Deacons' Offering	(collected from back to front)	Congregation
❖ Creedal Song	<i>Barocha</i>	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	Ephesians 6:5-9	Pastor
❖ Hymn of Reflection #597	<i>Though I May Speak with Bravest Fire</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Ruth 2:4-7 <i>"Faithfulness in the Field"</i>	Pastor
❖ Hymn of Response #676	<i>Day by Day and with Each Passing Moment</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	2 Thessalonians 2:16-17	Pastor

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

Postlude

*~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~
~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~*

*Prelude: The Ash Grove (Wood)
Offertory: Arise, My Soul, Arise (Wesley/Twit)
Deacon's Offering: Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (Burkhardt)
Postlude: God of Grace (Manz)*

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## Deacons' Offering – Today, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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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Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet tonight  
at 6 pm in the church library.  
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The March Prayer letter is available in the narthex.  
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Women's Ministry Craft Morning

Please join us on Saturday, March 18th from 9-12 in the Billings Room. We are going to take a few hours to do some crafts together and be encouraged by a message. There will be light refreshments. Bring whatever craft or project you like to work on! If you don't have anything in mind to bring, there will be paper, colored pencils, paints, yarn, and other supplies available to use. Come learn something new or teach someone else what you know!

If you have any questions, please text or call Anne Denham at 607-838-3334 or email at a.denham356@gmail.com

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Mid Vermont Christian School

*Educating for Impact*

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JSH Mathematics Teacher (STEM teacher would be ideal!)

\*could be full time if combined with other positions

Please contact Vicky at [headofschool@mvcs.info](mailto:headofschool@mvcs.info) or 802-295-6800.

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Faithfulness in the Field

1. We Are Privy to Three Encounters in the Workplace.

- A. Boaz Greets His Employees in the Lord (4).
- B. Boaz Inquires about Ruth from his Foreman (5).
- C. Boaz's Foreman Gives a Report (6-7).

2. Boaz and Ruth Demonstrate Faithfulness.

3. How Are We Demonstrating Faith in Christ Daily?

Conclusion: Last week's emphasis on God's faithfulness in providence is followed up with this peek into His people's faithfulness at work. Both Boaz and Ruth are revealed doing what they should in how they serve the God of the Bible in their daily responsibilities. As we see them modeling faithfulness, it leads us to investigate our own behavior and the intentions of our hearts. Are we serving Christ foremost in the way that we go about the things that He has entrusted to our care?

Luke 22:24-27

(see also Mt 20:17-28; Mk 9:33-35)

²⁴ A dispute also arose among [the disciples], as to *which of them was to be regarded as the greatest*. ²⁵ And he said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles *exercise lordship over them*, and those in authority over them are called benefactors. ²⁶ *But not so with you*. Rather, let the greatest among you become as the youngest, and the leader as one who serves. ²⁷ For who is the greater, one who reclines at table or one who serves? Is it not the one who reclines at table? But *I am among you as the one who serves*.

Colossians 3:18-4:1

¹⁸ Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. ²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ *Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord* and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. *You are serving the Lord Christ*. ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality. ⁴¹ Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Ephesians 6:5-9

⁵ Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but *as bondservants of Christ*, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ *rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man*, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. ⁹ Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

First Peter 5:1-7

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: ² shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; ³ *not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock*. ⁴ And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory. ⁵ Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁶ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, ⁷ casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

Boaz was introduced by the narrator last week by foreshadowing in verse one. Now we meet him directly. His interactions with his workers and foreman reveal faithfulness both on his part and Ruth's.

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 **Ruth 2:4-7; Luke 22:24-27; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:18-4:1; First Peter 5:1-7; Philippians 3:12-21; John 13:1-17.** DISCUSS How do Boaz and Ruth demonstrate faithfulness? How is that encouraging? How is it convicting? How does your faith in Christ affect your daily interactions at work? MEDITATE on **Philippians 3:20-21.** PRAY “Jesus, You are Lord. You have authority over everything. Teach us to properly revere You and so respond appropriately to all authority in our lives.”

Sunday Evening

Young Adult Fellowship meets tonight at 6pm. Pray for God to bless them.

Monday

READ **Ruth 2:4-7; Philippians 3:12-21; First Peter 5:1-7.** DISCUSS How our citizenship in Heaven affect how we act in this world? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Philippians 3:20-21.** PRAY, “Father, thank You for Your loving us enough to send Christ to rescue us from our sinful pride.”

Tuesday

READ **Ruth 2:4-7; Luke 22:24-27; Ephesians 6:5-9.** DISCUSS Why were the disciples discussing who was first amongst them? How are you (we) tempted to do the same? How does Ephesians speak to our work? SERVE by considering someone else's needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Philippians 3:20-21.** PRAY, “Lord God, You have provided us with our jobs. Enable us to glorify You through the work that we do. Teach us how to have God-honoring relationships at work.”

Wednesday

READ **Ruth 2:4-7; Colossians 3:18-4:1; John 13:1-17**. DISCUSS How does Colossians address our work? How do trust in Christ and hard work go together? SERVE by *contacting someone from FCCW you haven't seen in a while. Demonstrate care for them more than yourself!* MEDITATE on **Philippians 3:20-21**. PRAY, "Lord, teach us to work for Your glory. Enable us to trust You in all that we do."

Thursday

READ **Ruth 2:4-7; First Peter 5:1-7; John 13:1-17**. DISCUSS How does Christ demonstrate godly humility in washing the disciples' feet? How are we supposed to reflect that in our relationships on earth? What are ways you are tempted to lord your position over others? How are you tempted to be resentful of your position(s) of service? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Philippians 3:20-21**. PRAY, "Lord, make us grateful to You for all You have given us. Teach us contentment with where You have placed us in the chain of command."

Friday

READ **Ruth 2:4-7; Luke 22:24-27; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:18-4:1; First Peter 5:1-7; Philippians 3:12-21; John 13:1-17**. DISCUSS What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you this week through these passages? MEDITATE on **Philippians 3:20-21**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *rejoice in God's good providence*.

Saturday

PREPARE for *gathered worship tomorrow*. READ **Ruth 2:1-23**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *worship service @ 10:30*. Ask Jesus to *help us trust Him instead of giving into bitterness and doubt*.

Philippians 3:20-21

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.