



The _____
First Congregational Church
of Woodstock _____

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

July 23rd, 2023

The Order of Morning Worship

July 23rd, 2023

Nine-thirty

Welcome & Announcements

Elder Peter Vanderhoof

Prelude & Silent Prayer

- ❖ Call to Worship Psalm 135:1-3 Elder
- ❖ Hymn of Exultation #101 *Come, Thou Almighty King* Congregation
- Scriptural Call to Repentance 1 John 1:8-9 Elder
- Prayer of Collective Confession Micah 7:18-20 Congregation

Who is a God like You, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of His inheritance? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; He will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea. You will show faithfulness to Jacob and steadfast love to Abraham, as You have sworn to our fathers from the days of old.

Silent Reflection and Confession

Proclamation of Forgiveness 1 Timothy 1:15-17 Elder

Pastoral Prayer Elder

Offering (collected from back to front) Congregation

Affirmation of Faith *The Heidelberg Catechism*¹, Q. 21 Congregation

Elder: What is true faith?

Congregation: True faith is not only a sure knowledge by which I hold as true all that God has revealed to us in Scripture; it is also a wholehearted trust, which the Holy Spirit creates in me by the gospel, that God has freely granted, not only to others but to me also, forgiveness of sins, eternal righteousness, and salvation. These are gifts of sheer grace, granted solely by Christ's merit.

¹ Catechisms are a question and answer format used for teaching in the church. The Heidelberg Catechism was written in 1563 and approved by the Church at the Synod of Dort (1618-1619).

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| ❖ Creedal Song | <i>Holy Holy Holy is the Lord of Hosts</i> | Congregation |
| ❖ Scripture Reading | 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 | Elder |
| ❖ Hymn of Reflection | <i>Jesus, I Am Resting, Resting</i> | Congregation |
| The Sermon | John 17:20-26
<i>“Living a Life to Honor Christ”</i> | Elder Gil Emery |
| ❖ Hymn of Response #455 | <i>And Can It Be</i> | Congregation |
| ❖ Benediction | Ephesians 3:20-21 | Elder |

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Prelude: Christians, We Have Met to Worship (Moore/Hayes/Wagner)

Offertory: Holy Spirit (Getty/Townend)

Postlude: Come, Thou Almighty King (Hustad)

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## Save the Date!

**Wednesday, July 26** — 250 Years of Amazing Grace

7:00-7:30 Special music — solo bagpipe and organ (please arrive by 6:50!)

7:30 History Talk — digital slide presentation, with special refreshments following!

**Saturday, July 29** — 11:00 am-1:00 pm Charlotte Croft Memorial Service

**Sunday, August 13** — 4:00-7:00 pm Cookout and Missionary Visit with the Megills

**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

**Sunday, October 29** — Missionary Visit with the Klassens (stay tuned for details!)

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250 YEARS OF AMAZING GRACE

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF WOODSTOCK

WEDNESDAY, JULY 26, 7:30 PM AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 6:30 PM AT THE WOODSTOCK HISTORY CENTER

DIGITAL SLIDE PRESENTATION WITH OLD-TIME REFRESHMENTS

DID YOU KNOW THAT THE FIRST GATHERING THAT LED TO THE FORMATION OF THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF WOODSTOCK OCCURRED 250 YEARS AGO? AND DID YOU KNOW THAT 1773 WAS ALSO THE YEAR THAT JOHN NEWTON PENNED THE WORDS TO AMAZING GRACE? JOIN PRESTON BRISTOW FOR AN EVENING OF HISTORIC PHOTOS AND FUN FACTS THAT TRACE THE AMAZING GRACE THAT HAS KEPT THIS CHURCH ALIVE.

These talks are free. Craft marshmallows made with the root of the marshmallow plant and the summer drink switchel will be served.

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## Charlotte Croft Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service for Charlotte Croft on Saturday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 am, with a reception following. Please join us in thanking God for Charlotte's life and ministry.

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There will be no Young Adult Fellowship Group
for the month of July.

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## Jonathan Edwards History and Fellowship Retreat

Jonathan Edwards, a leading figure in the American Enlightenment, was a great theologian, writer, philosopher, and missionary to the Mohican Indians. After we explore his stomping grounds and delve into the history of the First Great Awakening, you will have time to visit the vibrant Main Street of Stockbridge, MA that has the look and feel of a 1950's movie. A Parisian Patisserie, an eclectic General Store, a chocolatier, a timeless Music Shop, plus a variety of other unique shops provide opportunities to experience the culture and flavor of Stockbridge. There is also the Norman Rockwell Museum (an additional admission fee is required), which encompasses 10 galleries and a scenic 36-acre campus, offering engaging programs and exhibits of this American artist. Join Paul Hoehner as our tour guide leading us through the history and teachings of Jonathan Edwards as we ride on a luxury bus to Stockbridge. We will meet at the Woodstock Union High School at 7:45 am on Saturday, August 26. Depart for Stockbridge, MA and return around 6:30 pm. Bring a bag lunch or eat in one of the quaint local cafes. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased from Terri DeDell. Cash, check, or Venmo accepted. If you have any questions or would like to purchase tickets, Terri can be contacted at [dedellcrew@gmail.com](mailto:dedellcrew@gmail.com).

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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 dennisnider@msn.com.

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Nursery Volunteers Needed

Can you give one Sunday to help minister to the youngest members of our church family? We have a full-time nursery attendant, but we need a volunteer to help her each Sunday from 9-11 (July-August) or 10-12 (September-December). 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 or (207) 329-4190. Thank you!

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## 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.

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The July Prayer Letter is available on the back table.

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## **Living a Life to Honor Christ**

**1. Why would I desire to honor Christ?**

**2. Why should I desire to honor Christ?**

**3. How do I honor Christ?**

Conclusion: As I consider what Jesus Christ has done for me, I must understand that God made me an ambassador of Christ, a joint heir to live in gratitude. God has given me the same Holy Spirit that indwelt Christ, leading him into the wilderness and guiding him through the wilderness, and will lead us through the wilderness in which we live. We are included in answering the High Priestly prayer of Jesus Christ – “<sup>25</sup> O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. <sup>26</sup> I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

### **John 10:27-28**

<sup>7</sup> My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. <sup>28</sup> I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

### **Philippians 2:12-16**

<sup>12</sup> Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

<sup>14</sup> Do all things without grumbling or disputing, <sup>15</sup> that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, <sup>16</sup> holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

### **Romans 8:12-17**

<sup>12</sup> So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. <sup>13</sup> For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. <sup>14</sup> For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. <sup>15</sup> For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” <sup>16</sup> The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, <sup>17</sup> and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

### **1 John 1:7-10**

<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. <sup>8</sup> If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. <sup>10</sup> If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

### **James 1:22-25**

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. <sup>23</sup> For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. <sup>24</sup> For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. <sup>25</sup> But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.



# Taking Gathered Worship Home

Has God equipped us to be obedient? Jesus Christ should be the complete focus of our affection and gratitude. It is only through the grace of Christ that we can receive all things with praise to Him.

*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 **John 17:20-26, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 10:27-28, John 16:5-14** DISCUSS. Do we hear His voice? Is Jesus your Lord and Savior, or just Savior? How does His sovereignty give us comfort? How are we giving thanks to Him and Him alone? Be specific. MEDITATE on **1 John 1:8-9**. PRAY “Risen Lord, thank You for conquering death. Enable us to joyfully submit to Your holy rule and reign over all things!”

## Sunday Evening

**Young Adult Fellowship** will not meet for the month of July.

## Monday

READ **John 17:20-26, 2 Corinthians 13:5, Philippians 2:12-16**. DISCUSS. How do we face trials? Do we yield to grumbling or disputing? Do we count it all joy when facing trials? MEDITATE on **1 John 1:8-9**. PRAY, “Jesus, as Your Kingdom expands according to Your proclamation, teach us to acknowledge You as the Sovereign over all things and be grateful!”

## Tuesday

READ **John 17:20-26, Ephesians 2:1-10, 1 Corinthians 10:23-24**. DISCUSS. Was I really once dead in my trespasses and sin? Or is this something the Bible says we are, but we don't believe? How has the Holy Spirit changed me? Am I not free to do what I want? MEDITATE on **1 John 1:8-9**. PRAY, “Jesus, we Praise You for Your great love for Your people. Teach us to trust and obey You all our days.”

### Wednesday

READ **John 17:20-26, Romans 8:12-17, Galatians 5:16-25**. DISCUSS. What does living according to the flesh look like? How do we avoid living according to the flesh? Does my adoption come without any constraints? MEDITATE on **1 John 1:8-9**. PRAY, “Lord Jesus, we thank You for conquering death for us and giving us life in Christ. Holy Spirit, guide us in our walk.”

### Thursday

READ **John 17:20-26, 1 John 1:7-10, 1 John 2:1-6**. DISCUSS. Do I confess my sins as the Scriptures say I should? Are we thankful we have an Advocate with the Father to Whom we can confess? What is the difference between praising God and man? MEDITATE on **1 John 1:8-9**. PRAY, “Jesus, You are our Advocate if by faith we respond to You with joy. Enable us to obey You absolutely with great joy and give praise appropriately.”

### Friday

READ **John 17:20-26, James 1:22-25, Jude 17-23**. DISCUSS. How has God been teaching you from these passages this week? REJOICE if by God’s grace, you are able to praise the King! MEDITATE on **1 John 1:8-9**. PRAY for renewal and revival across our land.

### 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 **1 John 5:1-5**. *Invite others to join you tomorrow for the worship service at 9:30 am*. Ask Jesus to help us love our neighbors well.

## 1 John 1:8-9

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.