

First Congregational Church
of Woodstock

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

January 7th, 2024

The Order of Morning Worship

January 7th, 2023 Ten-thirty

Welcome & Announcements Elder Tom Johnston

Prelude & Silent Prayer

❖ Call to Worship Psalm 34:1-3 Elder

♣ Hymn of Exultation #208 O Come, All Ye Faithful 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
Doxology
Congregation

❖ Scripture Reading Philippians 2:5-11 Elder

❖ Hymn of Reflection #226 As With Gladness Men of Old Congregation

The Sermon Matthew 1:18-25 Rev. Steve Froehlich

"Joseph, a Just Man"

♣ Hymn of Response #213 What Child Is This Congregation

Communion Congregation

❖ Communion Hymn #203 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing Congregation

♣ Benediction Romans 15:13 Pastor

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

Postlude

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

¹ The term "catholic" is used here in its generic sense of the universal church, not to refer to a denomination.

Pastor Doug is Away

Pastor Doug will be away from December 30-January 13, first on vacation in Maine, and then in California, where he will be taking classes as a part of his Doctor of Ministry program. If you have an emergency, please contact one of the elders below:

Elder Peter Vanderhoof (Chair): 802-483-9430, pdvanderhoof@gmail.com

Elder Tom Johnston: 802-457-3012, tajdmd1@gmail.com

Elder Stephen Briggs: 802-775-8088, <u>briggsboat@gmail.com</u>

Guest Speaker: Steve Froehlich

Steve Froehlich served as Senior Pastor of New Life Presbyterian Church in Ithaca, New York from 1998-2022. He is currently retired, but still an active member of the congregation and provides ministry to New Life on occasion. Previously, he served as Executive Vice President of Reformed Theological Seminary and as Assistant Pastor to Highlands Presbyterian Church in Jackson, MS. He completed undergraduate studies in theatre. His Doctor of Ministry thesis, entitled "Faithful Presence: How Community Formation Shapes the Understanding and Practice of Calling," reflects his commitment to encouraging and equipping people to live for God's glory and the common good in every area of culture.

During his time in Ithaca, he has served as board president of Chesterton House Center for Christian Studies at Cornell University, on the board of the PCA Foundation, and as a member of the Ithaca City School District's Key Communicators Team. His interests include the intersection of Christianity and the arts, especially literature and film. He and his wife, Sheryl, met in college. They have three sons and four grandchildren.

The January Prayer Letter is available on the back table.

Save the Date!

Sunday, January 21 — Missionary visit with Ben & Sarah Courtemanche

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.

Sermon Notes
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Rev. Steve Froehlich January 7, 2024

10:30 Morning Worship Service: Matthew 1:18-25

Joseph, a Just Man