



The \_\_\_\_\_  
**First Congregational Church**  
of Woodstock \_\_\_\_\_

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

*February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



**Congregation: The Word of God, which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, is the only rule to direct us as to how we may glorify and enjoy Him.**

Deacons' Offering	(collected from back to front)	Congregation
❖ Creedal Song #735	<i>Gloria Patri</i>	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	Exodus 12:43-49	Pastor
❖ Hymn of Reflection	<i>Behold the Lamb</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Ruth 1:15-18 <i>"Are You Determined to Follow Christ?"</i>	Pastor
❖ Hymn of Response #255	<i>We Are God's People</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	Jude 24-25	Pastor

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

*Prelude: Come, Thou Almighty King (Whitworth)*

*Offertory: Trio on "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (Barr)*

*Deacons' Offering: Come, People of the Risen King (Getty/Townend/Leatherman)*

*Postlude: Fugue in D Major (J. S. Bach)*

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

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.

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## Young Adult Pizza & Super Bowl Party

The Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet today at 4 pm at the Parsonage. Bring your favorite pizza and salad toppings. We will eat, sing, and study God's Word together. All are welcome to stay after and watch the Super Bowl.

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The February Prayer Letter is available on the back table.

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### An Evening of Encouragement

BCE Supper Talk: February 23, 2023  
"The Glorious Church"

Have you noticed? Being a dedicated member of a church is no longer a normal part of American culture. "Church people" stand out now more than ever before. Of course, standing out can be a very good thing, but in some ways it makes being a member of a church more difficult. The culture no longer supports us or the time we commit to church activities, because it no longer sees church as a meaningful, important part of life.

On Thursday, February 23, the Board of Christian Education invites you to a supper talk that intends to rekindle our love of church. We've titled it, "The Glorious Church." It's for all of us - those who need a reminder of why church is so important, those who are a bit tired of the commitment, and those who love church and just want to hear more ways to describe it to others.

After sharing dinner at 6:00 pm, we'll watch a video and engage in discussion. The video is of a plenary talk given last year at the CCEF New England conference. The conference was about living effectively as the body of Christ. In this plenary, Robyn Huck describes the beauty of the church that God has given us. In this talk we hear that God has required that we be unified to act as Christ's ambassadors, He has provided that unity for us, and He glories in our church unity. This is an uplifting, no-guilt-trip, 40-minute video of pure encouragement.

Please sign up on the Billings Room bulletin board and bring a side dish or dessert of your choosing. Main course will be supplied.

We could all use a bit more uplifting encouragement. We hope you'll join us on Thursday, February 23 at 6:00 pm.

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## Nursery Volunteers Needed

Can you give one Sunday this spring 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 10-12. If you are willing to help one Sunday or more, or if you have questions, please contact Karis Warren at [karis.warren@gmail.com](mailto:karis.warren@gmail.com) or (207) 329-4190. Thank you!

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## Flower Committee

The Flower Committee would like to encourage our members to contribute flowers for Sunday services. This is a wonderful way to remember a loved one or to celebrate a special event. Please contact Christine Morton or Alison Briggs, or sign-up in the Billings room.



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## Send a Valentine's Day Card!

You will find a variety of cards waiting to be filled out and brought to the kiddos at the Dartmouth Children's Hospital. Please take a moment to sign a card and make a little one's day. See Karis for details.

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## Intro 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 *Intro to FCCW Workshop* being offered Friday night, March 3, from 6-9 pm and Saturday morning, March 4, from 9 am-noon. 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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## **Exodus 12:43-49**

<sup>43</sup> And the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “This is the statute of the Passover: *no foreigner shall eat of it*, <sup>44</sup> but every slave that is bought for money may eat of it *after you have circumcised him*. <sup>45</sup> *No foreigner or hired worker may eat of it*. <sup>46</sup> It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the flesh outside the house, and you shall not break any of its bones. <sup>47</sup> All the congregation of Israel shall keep it. <sup>48</sup> If a stranger shall sojourn with you and *would keep* the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised. Then he may come near and keep it; *he shall be as a native of the land*. But no uncircumcised person shall eat of it. <sup>49</sup> There shall be one law for the native and for the stranger who sojourns among you.”

## **John 1:9-13**

The true light [Jesus], which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and *his own people did not receive him*. But *to all who did receive him, who believed in his name*, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

## **Romans 10:9**

Because, if you *confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord* and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, *you will be saved*.

## **1 Timothy 6:12**

Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which *you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses*.

## **Acts 2:39**

For the *promise* is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, *everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself*.”

## **Joshua 24:14-15**

“Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and *serve the Lord*. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But *as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord*.”

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

In one of the most beautiful declarations in Scripture, Ruth pledges herself to Naomi. It is a tender moment of personal affection. And it is so much more than that too. Ruth renounces her own family, tribe, religion, and identity to commit herself until death to her mother-in-law's God.

*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 1:15-18; Exodus 12:43-49; John 1:9-13; Romans 10:9; 1 Timothy 6:12; Joshua 24:14-15; Acts 2:39.** DISCUSS Why does Naomi continue to encourage Ruth to return to Moab? What does Ruth's profession of faith mean? How is it similar to ours? MEDITATE on **Joshua 22:5.** PRAY "Jesus, You worthy of all praise, commitment and devotion. Enable us to remain faithful in Your service."

## Sunday Evening

**Young Adult Fellowship** will meet at the parsonage at 4pm for a Pizza & Super Bowl Party.

## Monday

READ **Ruth 1:15-18; Exodus 12:43-49; John 1:9-13.** DISCUSS How does Ruth's profession of faith express what God's people did in Passover? How does that relate to becoming a child of God? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Joshua 22:5.** PRAY, "Father, renew our household to faithful service of You as our King and our God."

## Tuesday

READ **Ruth 1:15-18; John 1:9-13; Romans 10:9; Joshua 24:14-15.** DISCUSS What is the role of professions of faith in Christ? SERVE by considering someone else's needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Joshua 22:5.** PRAY, "Lord God, thank You for securing us in Christ. Thank You for the privilege You give us in this life of suffering for Your sake. Bring glory and honor to Christ's name!"

### Wednesday

READ **Ruth 1:15-18; Romans 10:9; 1 Timothy 6:12**. DISCUSS Why are confessions of faith public? Why was it important for Naomi to hear and not just something Ruth prayed alone? SERVE by *contacting someone from FCCW you haven't seen in a while. Demonstrate care for them more than yourself!* MEDITATE on **Joshua 22:5**. PRAY, “Lord, make us faithful in our service of You.”

### Thursday

READ **Ruth 1:15-18; 1 Timothy 6:12; Joshua 24:14-15**. DISCUSS What do you need to repent of today? Do not wait. Turn now and then tell someone who can help keep you accountable. SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Joshua 22:5**. PRAY, “Lord, You are holy. Change our hearts, we pray.”

### Friday

READ **Ruth 1:15-18; Exodus 12:43-49; John 1:9-13; Romans 10:9; 1 Timothy 6:12; Joshua 24:14-15; Acts 2:39**. DISCUSS, What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you this week through these passages? MEDITATE on **Joshua 22:5**. PRAY that we at FCCW would *truly delight in God's mercy together*.

### Saturday

PREPARE for *gathered worship tomorrow*. READ **Ruth 1:1-22**. Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *worship service @ 10:30*. Ask Jesus to *help us adore Him through obedience as we gather*.

## Joshua 22:5

“Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, and to walk in all his ways and to keep his commandments and to cling to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”