



The _____
First Congregational Church
_____ of Woodstock _____

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

July 9th, 2023

**in the day of judgment, and made perfectly blessed
in the full enjoying of God to all eternity.**

Deacons' Offering	(collected from back to front)	Congregation
❖ Creedal Song #735	<i>Gloria Patri</i>	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	Hebrews 11:8-10	Elder
❖ Hymn of Reflection	<i>Speak, O Lord</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Haggai 1:1-15	Mr. Ernest Shipman
	<i>"Working on a Building"</i>	
❖ Hymn of Response	<i>Seek Ye First</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	2 Thessalonians 2:16-17	

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

Postlude

~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~

~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~

Prelude: Holy God, We Praise Thy Name (Manz)

Postlude: Ye Servants of God: Postlude on Hanover (Birchwood)

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**Vespers Today**

We will meet at the Woodstock Terrace at 3pm, Homestead 3:30pm and Merten's House 4pm. There will be Hymn singing, prayer and visiting with residents. Jonathan Denham will lead us in music and Stephen Briggs will give a short Gospel message. It is a blessed time and anyone is welcome!

If you have any questions please talk to Rhonda Bruce or Rosmarie Vanderhoof.

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

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Deacons' Offering – Today, July 9th, 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.

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

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Alice Frick Memorial Service

There will be a memorial service on Wednesday, July 12th, at 6:00 pm, with a reception following. Please join us in thanking God for Alice's life and ministry.

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### 250 Years of Amazing Grace Wednesday, July 26

*Digital slide show in the Sanctuary (with AC) at 6:30 pm.*

Did you know that the first gathering for worship that led to the formation of our church occurred 250 years ago? And did you know that 1773 was also the year that John Newton penned Amazing Grace? Come join Preston Bristow for an evening of historic photos and fun facts in a digital slideshow format that traces the amazing grace that founded and preserves our church. Preston's greatest fear is that an audience might be bored, and this will not be a tedious history lecture! The presentation will be under an hour with ample time for questions. This talk is free followed by "real" home-made marshmallows made with marshmallow root and switchel to drink, two old-time favorites. No food contributions needed, just bring yourselves! And a friend!

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## Save the Date!

**Friday, July 21** — 5:00-7:00 pm COT Hot Dogs & S'mores on the FCCW lawn

**Wednesday, July 26** — 5:30-8:30 pm Church History Supper Talk

**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

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The July Prayer Letter is available on the back table.

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## Pastor Doug is Away

Pastor Doug will be in California from July 6-22 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, | <a href="mailto:pdvanderhoof@gmail.com">pdvanderhoof@gmail.com</a> |
| Elder Tom Johnston:             | 802-457-3012, | <a href="mailto:tajdmd1@gmail.com">tajdmd1@gmail.com</a>           |
| Elder Stephen Briggs:           | 802-775-8088, | <a href="mailto:briggsboat@gmail.com">briggsboat@gmail.com</a>     |
| Elder Dennis Snider:            | 719-492-7264, | <a href="mailto:denisssnider@msn.com">denisssnider@msn.com</a>     |

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Woodstock Christian Child Care Job Opportunities

Looking for summer work, part or full time? Want to plug in some extra hours for college or fill in some more work hours? Woodstock Christian Child Care needs more summer workers, with the option of continuing in the fall, to help care for our extra summer preK - grade 1 classes and classes for ages 6 weeks to preK. If you are 18 years old or older, enjoy children, and have hours available, please contact WCCC Executive Director at rbrissonwccc@gmail.com. Positions available immediately. Thank you!

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Guest Preacher: Ernest Shipman

I was born in 1959 & grew up in Atlanta, GA. I was raised in a Christian home and came to faith at age 14. I moved to NH in 1985 to get married. I have been married to Wendy since 1986. We have two adult children: Sam, who lives in Chattanooga, and Emma, who is married & lives near us.

I have two other connections to the church! In the mid 1990's, Wendy's sister took a job at Dartmouth Hospital and she attended the church. We used to visit her often and Sunday mornings were always a treat. We got to be friends of the Koops as well. I am an ordained ruling elder in the Presbyterian Church in America, and I am friends with Pastor Warren as he and I are both members of the same presbytery.

In addition to being a ruling elder (and a member of Exeter Presbyterian church), I have been called to preach and have been licensed by the Presbytery. I do pulpit supply and preach as I am needed. To help facilitate this calling I have joined the staff of Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship as a missionary, non-ordained evangelistic worker. My passion is preaching the Gospel and doing one-on-one discipleship. I also recently published a book on discipleship for adults using the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

When not in ministry, Wendy & I have a mini farm (really a former blueberry farm) in New Durham, NH. I am now retired from the business world, having been self-employed since 1991. I recently sold both of my businesses: I used to own a commercial sign shop (my wife is very artistic), and I used to also own a small retail firearms store.

God has been very faithful to us!

My life verse is:

Only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. 1st Samuel 12:24

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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 [dennisssnider@msn.com](mailto:dennisssnider@msn.com).

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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 for more information or to apply.

Working on a Building

1. Vs. 1-11: **Are you one of “these people”?**

2. Vs. 12-15: **Will you-**

- Obey the LORD’S Call?
- Show God the proper and holy fear He deserves
- Repent of your Sin?
- Will you allow the Spirit to stir your soul?
- Act in Faith as He has called you? God has called us to Himself saying “I am with you”

3. God has called us to Himself saying “I am with you”

Application: How do we go from “these people” to “I am with you”?

1. Are you filled with the Spirit, resting only in Christ?
2. Is building God’s Kingdom your highest priority?

Conclusion: As we live our lives, *do the words of Jesus ring in our ears daily?* “But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.” (Matthew 6:33) And as we ‘seek Him’, what do we expect in return? Are we seeking to bargain with God for material blessing in return for obedience? Or are we content to see God glorified, His kingdom built, and His righteousness poured out upon us?

Hebrews 11:8-10

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. *By faith he went* to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For *he was looking forward* to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.

Isaiah 8:11-15

For the LORD spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk *in the way of this people*, saying: “Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. *But the LORD of hosts, him you shall honor as holy*. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken.”

Acts 9:31

So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And *walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit*, it multiplied.

Luke 17:1-4

And he said to his disciples, “Temptations to sin are sure to come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck and he were cast into the sea than that he should cause one of these little ones to sin. Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and *if he repents, forgive him*, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”

Exodus 35:20-22

Then all the congregation of the people of Israel departed from the presence of Moses. And they came, *everyone whose heart stirred him*, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the LORD’s contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for all its service, and for the holy garments. So they came, both men and women. *All who were of a willing heart* brought brooches and earrings and signet rings and armlets, all sorts of gold objects, every man dedicating an offering of gold to the LORD.

First Corinthians 1:9-10

God is faithful, by whom *you were called into the fellowship of his Son*, Jesus Christ our Lord. I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that *you be united in the same mind and the same judgment*.

First Corinthians 16:13-14

Be watchful, *stand firm in the faith*, act like men, be strong. *Let all that you do be done in love*.

Taking Gathered Worship Home

The Jews who had returned to Jerusalem from captivity in Babylon had stopped working on constructing the temple of God. The Lord sent the prophet Haggai to call His people to consider their sin. How do we often fall into the same temptation?

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 **Haggai 1:1-15; Hebrews 11:8-10; Isaiah 8:11-15; Acts 9:31; Luke 17:1-4; Exodus 35:20-22; First Corinthians 1:9-10; 16:13-14; Psalm 89:5-8.** DISCUSS How are you (we) obeying God by faith? What do you need to turn from today? MEDITATE on **Matthew 6:33.** PRAY “Lord of hosts, *forgive us!* We as Your people so often take You for granted and neglect to obey You as we should.”

Sunday Evening

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

Monday

READ **Haggai 1:1-15; Hebrews 11:8-10; Acts 9:31.** DISCUSS What about faith leads to obedience? Why did Abraham go out? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Matthew 6:33.** PRAY, “Lord of hosts, You give us every reason to obey You. Enliven us to believe You fully as so live out action by faith.”

Tuesday

READ **Haggai 1:1-15; Isaiah 8:11-15; Psalm 89:5-8.** DISCUSS How are the “people” in Haggai and Isaiah the same here? Are you “one of these people”? Are you walking in their way? How is the gospel the only way we can both fear God and know Him as our “sanctuary” and safety? What does it mean to honor God as holy? MEDITATE on **Matthew 6:33.** PRAY, “Lord our God, You have shown us that You are faithful! Protect us from stumbling and keep our eyes on You.”

Wednesday

READ **Haggai 1:1-15; Luke 17:1-4; Exodus 35:20-22; Acts 9:31.** DISCUSS What does it mean for the Holy Spirit to stir your soul? Why is the result generosity with others? In both Luke and Exodus we see God's people generously forgiving and sharing as a result. How is *that* manifest in your life? MEDITATE **Matthew 6:33.** PRAY, "Lord our God, You have given us the Holy Spirit to lead us. Keep us from resisting Him and *help us to delight in His leading.*"

Thursday

READ **Haggai 1:1-15; First Corinthians 1:9-10; 16:13-14; Psalm 89:5-8.** DISCUSS How has God called us to live by faith? What should that look like in our community at FCCW? SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **Matthew 6:33.** PRAY, "Lord of hosts, You have already united us together in Christ. Please help us to live out that unity by faith."

Friday

READ **Haggai 1:1-15; Hebrews 11:8-10; Isaiah 8:11-15; Acts 9:31; Luke 17:1-4; Exodus 35:20-22; First Corinthians 1:9-10; 16:13-14; Psalm 89:5-8.** DISCUSS What has God been teaching you this week through these passages? MEDITATE on **Matthew 6:33.** SERVE by putting someone else's interests *above your own!* PRAY that we at FCCW would *trust Christ together.*

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 **Haggai 2:1-23.** *Invite others to join you tomorrow for worship services at 9:30 am.* PRAY, "Lord Jesus, *prepare Your people to hear Your Word.* Gather us together to delight in You."

Matthew 6:33

**"But seek first the kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you."**