

Vows for New Members & Congregation

Members at FCCW covenant with the Lord and one another in joining together.

New members to FCCW take the following vows:

- **I now confess my faith in Jesus as the Christ and acknowledge Him as my Lord and Savior.**
- **I also resolve to learn the will of God, known or to be made known, as taught in the Holy Scriptures, and to walk in the ways of the Lord.**
- **I do covenant with this church to attend its services, to support its activities and missions, to pray and labor for its growth in grace, and to walk worthily with you in its communion of worship and work.**

The *Membership of the church*, likewise takes part in the covenant saying:

- **We the members of this church, receive you into our fellowship, and welcome you with joy. We promise to pray for you, to watch over you, and to help you so long as you shall abide with us.**
- **May God grant that, loving and being loved, serving and being served, blessing and being blessed, we may be prepared while we dwell together on earth for the perfect fellowship of the saints in heaven.**

Then *the whole congregation along with the new members to agree:*

- **We covenant with the Lord and one another, and do bind ourselves in the presence of God, to walk together in His holy ways.**
- **We will strive to be doers of the Word, and not hearers only; to be firm in faith, quickened in hope, and constant in charity.**
- **We will also consecrate our time, talent, substance, and influence, as heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. Amen.**

These vows are taken together before God and these witnesses by solemn oath trusting in the Holy Spirit's enabling and the Father's grace demonstrated through Jesus Christ. Praise be to God!

Sermon Notes and Daily Devotional
First Congregational Church of Woodstock

Pastor Doug Warren
August 25th, 2019

Morning Service: Genesis 17:7-8; Acts 2:37-41; Galatians 3:23-29

Baptism – Obeying and Receiving

1. God's Covenant Is to Be Our God and Make Us His People.
2. How Do We Baptize?
3. Jesus Completed What Baptism Symbolizes and Seals.

The history of God's redemption of His people is a long love story of His faithfulness despite all our rebellion to restore us to Himself. He has used a visible sign and seal (sacrament) all along to mark out His people as peculiarly His own. Baptism is now that identifying reality that we obey God in doing (and applying to our children) and receiving from God Himself.

Evening Service:

Elder John Haas
Acts 8: 26 – 40

Baptism – In Practice

Notes:

Taking Gathered Worship Home

God commanded Abraham to be circumcised together with all those in his house. Jesus transformed that sign and seal of purification to being cleansed with living water in baptism for all believers and their children. Baptism is that signal way of declaring publically and officially “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!”

Please use the devotional material below each day this week to meet with Jesus. Ask Christ to teach us His ways that we may walk in them to accomplish His purposes.

Sunday AM

READ **Genesis 17:7-8; Acts 2:37-41; Galatians 3:23-29**. DISCUSS, for whom was the covenant/promise intended? What were recipients of this covenant to do as a result? How does baptism point to Christ? How does it seal us as God’s people? PRAY rejoice for the new members God has provided for FCCW.

Sunday PM

READ **Acts 8: 26 – 40**. DISCUSS, How do reflect on your own Baptism? How has this discussion helped you to understand Baptism as a sacrament?

Monday

READ **Genesis 17:7-8**. DISCUSS, What are the similarities of God’s call to Abraham and to people today? What are some differences? How did it involve his whole family? How about ours? PRAISE God for His kindness to us in the gospel. BEFRIEND someone in your neighborhood or workplace.

Tuesday

READ **Acts 2:37-41**. DISCUSS, How does the gospel proclamation build on what had gone before them as sons of Abraham? By what were they cut to the heart? How do both circumcision and baptism point to our need for Jesus? How do they point to His redemption for us? PRAY, “Lord, forgive us for taking baptism for granted. Teach us to walk in the newness of life signified and sealed in our baptism into Christ.”

Wednesday

READ **Genesis 17:7-8; Colossians 2:11-15**. DISCUSS, How has the covenant remained the same? In what ways has it been expanded? What does it mean for you to live in the reality of your baptism? If you have not been baptized, why not? PRAY, Ask God to help us understand His mark of being in His family.

Thursday

READ the accounts of “household baptisms” in **Acts 16:11-15; 29-34; 18:8**. DISCUSS, How does this fit with the model of God’s receiving circumcision? Why? PRAY, “Jesus, empower us to proclaim Your truth to our families in Your power.”

Friday

READ **Genesis 17:7-8; Acts 2:37-41; Galatians 3:23-29**. DISCUSS, What have you been learning this week about baptism? How are you applying your own baptism (if baptized)? If you have not been baptized, why not? PRAY thanking the Lord for the gift of His signs and seals of the covenant He has made with us. Thank Christ for fulfilling it.

Saturday

PREPARE today for the gathered worship service tomorrow and **communion** together with God and His covenant people.

READ **Matt 28:16-20; Acts 16:11-15; 29-34; 19:1-5**. Come to worship tomorrow *asking the Holy Spirit to guide us together as a congregation*. Pray for our neighbors to know this joy.

Genesis 17:7 – 8; Acts 2:37

“And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God.”

“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.”