



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

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

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



❖ Creedal Song #735	<i>Gloria Patri</i>	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	John 14:1-17	Pastor
❖ Hymn of Reflection #478	<i>I Love to Tell the Story</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Exodus 20:16 <i>“Bearers of the Truth”</i>	Pastor
❖ Hymn of Response #642	<i>Be Thou My Vision</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	2 Thessalonians 2:16-17	Pastor

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

Postlude

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*~~ Organist: Jonathan Denham ~~*

*~~ Please ensure cell phones are off ~~*

*Prelude: Variations on Slane (Lasky)*

*Prelude & Silent Prayer (Handbells): Thankful People (Burroughs)*

*Offertory: Jesus Paid It All (Mason)*

*Deacon's Offering (Handbells): Give Thanks (Cota)*

*Postlude: Now Thank We All Our God (Sewell)*

*~~ Ringers: Jonathan Denham, Kyle Huck, Heidi Tucker, Kristen Warren,*

*Anne Hablitzel, Jan Noskey, Val Langdon, Jo Truell ~~*

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## Vespers Today

We will have Vespers again this Sunday, November 12th, starting at the Woodstock Terrace at **3 pm**, followed by The Homestead at **3:30 pm** and ending at Mertens house at **4 pm**.

Anyone who loves visiting with the elderly, enjoys singing hymns, listening to a short gospel message, and praying is welcome. Looking forward to seeing you there!

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Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet tonight  
at 5 pm at Karis's home (115 Buds Way)

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## Save the Date!

- Friday, November 17-Saturday, November 18** — Living at Peace Workshop
- Sunday, November 19** — Thanksgiving Fellowship Meal at 2:00 pm, followed by a special Worship Service
- Sunday, November 19** — Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes due
- Sunday, November 26** — Sue Houltberg Memorial Service at 2:00 pm
- Friday, December 8-Saturday, December 9** — Wassail Weekend
- Friday, 4:30 & 5:30 pm — FCCW Building & History Tours
  - Friday, 5:00 pm — Organ Concert
  - Saturday, 11:00 am-2:00 pm — Hot Wassail and DIY s'mores on the lawn
  - Saturday, 2:00 pm — Wassail Parade Watch Party
  - Saturday, 3:00 pm — The Ten of NYC Concert
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## Living at Peace Workshop

Join us at FCCW next weekend for a special one and a half day *Living at Peace* workshop. David and Judi Glidden of New Peace Network will help us learn how to better resolve conflict by applying biblical principles, as well as teaching effective skills for communication and conflict resolution. The workshop includes a workbook that follows the presentations and a toolbox that summarizes key teaching points.

The sessions will be held **Friday, Nov. 17, 6:30-9:00 pm**, and **Saturday, Nov. 18, 9:00 am-3:00 pm**. Meals will be provided.

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## Operation Christmas Child

Stop by the library and pick up a shoebox or two, then go to [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org) for a list of ideas of how to pack them. This is a wonderful opportunity to share God's love in a tangible way with children around the world. The deadline for dropping off your shoeboxes is **Sunday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**. Contact Karis Warren at (207) 329-4190 or [karis.warren@gmail.com](mailto:karis.warren@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

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## Thanksgiving Fellowship Dinner—November 19<sup>th</sup>

All are welcome to join in fellowship with church friends and family on Sunday, November 19 for a Thanksgiving meal. Turkeys, gravy and cranberry sauce will be supplied via the elders and we ask each family to bring a traditional side dish to share. Potatoes, stuffing, vegetables, salads, desserts, whatever you enjoy!

There is a sign-up list in the Billings Room—to help with our planning, please take a moment to let us know you are coming and in what ways you might be able to help. We need helpers to set up tables and chairs after Sunday School, kitchen helpers after the church service to set tables and work in the kitchen, table clearers and dishwashers after the meal, and breakdown of the tables and chairs and resetting the Billings Room. Finally, if someone would provide table decorations, that is also welcome!

There will be NO Coffee Hour (but there will be coffee for the helpers!) on November 19. The meal begins at 2:00pm and the service will start closer to 3:30pm.

Please contact Keri Bristow (603 359-3948 or [kerilynbristow@gmail.com](mailto:kerilynbristow@gmail.com)) with questions and if you can help with any of the above needs for help! Thank you!

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:rbatwood1@gmail.com).

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# Christmas Poinsettias

Poinsettias always add to the festive color of Christmas and can be given as a memorial to a loved one and taken home after the Christmas Eve Service. To order a 6" red or white Poinsettia, contact Christine Morton or Alison Briggs before December 14, 2022. The cost for each Poinsettia will be \$10. Please remember to make your check out to FCCW.

## Wassail Weekend

We could still use a few more volunteers to help with our Wassail drinks and s'mores on the FCCW front lawn on Saturday, Dec 9th from 11am-2pm.

Help is needed with set-up, serving, and clean-up, so please contact Keri Bristow at [kerilynbristow@gmail.com](mailto:kerilynbristow@gmail.com) or (603) 359-3948 if you'd like to be a part of this fun outreach!

CELEBRATING 250 YEARS

# First Congregational Church of Woodstock

## Wassail Events December 8-10 2023

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8**

- 4:30PM BUILDING & HISTORY TOUR: FREE
- 5:00PM ORGAN CONCERT: FREE
- 5:30PM BUILDING & HISTORY TOUR: FREE

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9**

- 11:00AM-2:00PM HOT WASSAIL & SMORES: FREE
- 2:00PM PARADE WATCH PARTY FCCW LAWN
- 3:00PM THE TEN OF NYC A CAPPELLA: FREE

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10**

- 9:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL ALL AGES
- 10:30AM SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP WITH CHRISTMAS CAROL SING, ALL ARE WELCOME

EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE ON-SITE AT  
FCCW 36 ELM STREET, WOODSTOCK, VT 05091  
FCCWINFO@GMAIL.COM | 802-457-9818

## **Bearers of the Truth**

“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.”

**1. All Truth is God’s Truth.**

**2. He’s Made Us to Represent Him and Others Truly.**

**3. Jesus Has Conquered Deceit with Truth.**

**CONCLUSION:** God is the God of truth. In Him is nothing false at all. As sovereign over all Creation, He will have everyone know the truth that He alone is Lord of All. He has made us to be ambassadors of His Kingdom to bear the truth throughout all the earth and especially to our neighbors. Believing the truth about who Jesus is, and how He has lived out the truth of His redeeming love for us at the cross, is central to what it means to be part of His nation of priests. Let us proclaim the truth of Jesus Christ in our thoughts, words, and lives!

# Westminster Larger Catechism

**Q. 144.** What are the *duties required* in the ninth commandment?

**A.** The *duties required* in the ninth commandment are, the preserving and promoting of truth between man and man, and the good name of our neighbor, as well as our own: appearing and standing for the truth; and from the heart, sincerely, freely, clearly, and fully, speaking the truth, and only the truth, in matters of judgment and justice, and in all other things whatsoever; a charitable esteem of our neighbors; loving, desiring, and rejoicing in their good name; sorrowing for, and covering of their infirmities; freely acknowledging of their gifts and graces, defending their innocency; a ready receiving of good report, and unwillingness to admit of an evil report, concerning them; discouraging tale-bearers, flatterers, and slanderers; love and care of our own good name, and defending it when need requireth; keeping of lawful promises; study and practising of whatsoever things are true, honest, lovely, and of good report.

Zech. 8:16; 3 John 1:12; Prov. 31:8-9; Ps. 15:2; 2 Chr. 19:9; 1 Sam. 19:4-5; Josh. 7:19; 2 Sam. 14:18-20; Lev. 19:15; Prov. 14:5, 25; 2 Cor. 1:17-18; Eph. 4:25; Heb. 6:9; 1 Cor. 13:7; Rom. 1:8; 2 John 1:4; 3 John 1:3-4; 1 Cor. 1:4-5, 7; 2 Tim. 1:4-5; 1 Sam. 22:14; 1 Cor. 13:6-7; Ps. 15:3; Prov. 25:23; Prov. 26:24-25; Ps. 101:5; Prov. 22:1; John 8:49; Ps. 15:4; Phil. 4:8; 2 Cor. 2:4; 2 Cor. 12:21; Prov. 17:9; 1 Pet. 4:8.

**Q. 145.** What are the *sins forbidden* in the ninth commandment?

**A.** The *sins forbidden* in the ninth commandment are, all prejudicing the truth, and the good name of our neighbors, as well as our own, especially in public judicature; giving false evidence; suborning false witnesses; wittingly appearing and pleading for an evil cause; out-facing and overbearing the truth; passing unjust sentence; calling evil good, and good evil; rewarding the wicked according to the work of the righteous, and the righteous according to the work of the wicked; forgery; concealing the truth; undue silence in a just cause, and holding our peace when iniquity calleth for either a reproof from ourselves, or complaint to others; speaking the truth unseasonably, or maliciously to a wrong end, or perverting it to a wrong meaning, or in doubtful and equivocal expressions, to the prejudice of truth or justice; speaking untruth, lying, slandering, backbiting, detracting, tale-bearing, whispering, scoffing, reviling, rash, harsh, and partial censuring; misconstruing intentions, words, and actions; flattering, vain-glorious boasting, thinking or speaking too highly or too meanly of ourselves or others; denying the gifts and graces of God; aggravating smaller faults; hiding, excusing, or extenuating of sins, when called to a free confession; unnecessary discovering of infirmities; raising false rumours, receiving and countenancing evil reports, and stopping our ears against just defence; evil suspicion; envying or grieving at the deserved credit of any, endeavouring or desiring to impair it, rejoicing in their disgrace and infamy; scornful contempt; fond admiration; breach of lawful promises; neglecting such things as are of good report; and practicing or not avoiding ourselves, or not hindering what we can in others, such things as procure an ill name.

1 Sam. 17:28; 2 Sam. 16:3; 2 Sam. 1:9-10, 15-16; Lev. 19:15; Hab. 1:4; Prov. 19:5; Prov. 6:16, 19; Acts 6:13; Jer. 9:3, 5; Acts 24:2, 5; Ps. 12:3-4; Ps. 52:1-4; Prov. 17:15; 1 Kings 21:9-14; Isa. 5:23; Ps. 119:69; Luke 19:8; Luke 16:5-7; Lev. 5:1; Deut. 13:8; Acts 5:3, 8-9; 2 Tim. 4:16; 1 Kings 1:6; Lev. 19:17; Isa. 59:4; Prov. 29:11; 1 Sam. 22:9-10; Ps. 52:1-5; Ps. 56:5; John 2:19; Matt. 26:60-61; Gen. 3:5; Gen. 26:7, 9; Isa. 59:13; Lev. 19:11; Col. 3:9; Ps. 50:20; Ps. 15:3; Jas. 4:11; Jer. 38:4; Lev. 19:16; Rom. 1:29-30; Gen. 21:9; Gal. 4:29; 1 Cor. 6:10; Matt. 7:1; Acts 28:4; Gen. 38:24; Rom. 2:1; Neh. 6:6-8; Rom. 3:8; Ps. 69:10; 1 Sam. 1:13-15; 2 Sam. 10:3; Ps. 12:2-3; 2 Tim. 3:2; Luke 18:9, 11; Rom. 12:16; 1 Cor. 4:6; Acts 12:22; Ex. 4: 10-14; Job 27:5-6; Job 4:6; Matt. 7:3-5; Prov. 28:13; Prov. 30:20; Gen. 3:12-13; Jer. 2:35; 2 Kings 5:25; Gen. 4:9; Gen. 9:22; Prov. 25:9-10; Ex. 23:1; Prov. 29:12; Acts 7:56-57; Job 31:13-14; 1 Cor. 13:5; 1 Tim. 6:4; Num. 11:29; Matt. 21:15; Ezra 4:12-13; Jer. 48:27; Ps. 35:15-16, 21; Matt. 27:28-29; Jude 1:16; Acts 12:22; Rom. 1:31; 2 Tim. 3:3; 1 Sam. 2:24; 2 Sam. 13:12-13; Prov. 5:8-9; Prov. 6:33.



# Taking Gathered Worship Home

God is true. And so should His people be true. Falsehood has no place among the holy people of God. We are to treat God truly in part by not taking His name in vain (false). We are also to refrain from bearing false witness against our neighbors.

*Please use the devotional material below each day this week to praise Christ.*

## Sunday Morning

READ **Exodus 19:4-6; 20:16; John 14:1-17; Revelation 1:4-7; James 3:1-12; Psalm 34:11-14; 119:113-128.** DISCUSS How do you view stuff, time, ideas in relationship to Christ's Kingdom? Why? MEDITATE on **John 14:6** and *Westminster Larger Catechism* #144-5.

PRAY EACH DAY THIS WEEK "God of Truth, there is not the slightest falsity in You. Please teach us how important it is, as Your representatives, to think, speak, and live out the truthfulness of who You are. The lies of Satan are constantly calling Your truth into question. Enable us to believe what You say completely. Amen."

## Sunday Evening

The **Young Adult Fellowship** will meet tonight *at 5pm at Karis' home.*

## Monday

READ **Exodus 20:16; Exodus 19:4-6; Revelation 1:4-7; Psalm 119:113-128.** DISCUSS What does it mean for us to *represent God as His priests*? What role does truth or deception have in this? SERVE Reach out to someone in need! MEDITATE on **John 14:6** with WLC #144-5.

## Tuesday

READ **Exodus 20:16; John 14:1-17; Psalm 34:11-14; 119:113-128.** DISCUSS How does relate truth to each person of the Trinity? Why is truth such a vital part of God's character? What does that say about we ought to live as His people? SERVE Live out the truthfulness of Christ by demonstrating care to someone in His name. MEDITATE on **John 14:6** with WLC #144-5.

*Optional Alternate Prayer* “Lord God, all that You say is true and right. With the psalmist we cry out, ‘Teach me Your way, O LORD, that I may *walk in Your truth.*’ You tell us in Your Word, ‘The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all *who call on him in truth.*’ And we know, Jesus, that You are the truth in whom we call upon the Father when we pray in Your name. Enable us to be truth-tellers and faithful ambassadors for Your Kingdom. Teach us to represent You truthfully and to believe Your Word with the whole of our lives. Amen.”

### **Wednesday**

READ **Exodus 20:16; First Kings 17:17-24; John 14:1-17; Psalm 119:113-128.** DISCUSS How does our truthfulness or falseness reflect upon God? How are you glorifying Christ in your truthfulness? MEDITATE on **John 14:6** with WLC #144-5.

### **Thursday**

READ **Exodus 20:16; James 3:1-12; Psalm 119:113-128.** DISCUSS Why is the tongue so difficult to control? How does deceit lead to death? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **John 14:6** with WLC #144-5.

### **Friday**

READ **Exodus 19:4-6; 20:16; John 14:1-17; Revelation 1:4-7; James 3:1-12; Psalm 34:11-14; 119:113-128.** DISCUSS What has God been teaching you this week? SERVE by *caring for someone in need!* MEDITATE on **John 14:6** with WLC #144-5.

### **Saturday**

PREPARE today for *gathered Sunday worship tomorrow.* READ **Exodus 20:1-21.** *Invite others to join you tomorrow for the worship service @ 10:30 am.*

## **John 14:6**

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, & *the truth*, and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me.