



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

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

*October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



❖ Hymn of Response #501

*Just As I Am*

Congregation

❖ Benediction

Numbers 6:24-26

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 ~~*

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Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet tonight  
at 6 pm in the church library.  
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Nominating Committee Slate for 2024

**Deaconesses**

26 Heidi Tucker (2)

25 Jennifer Barnes

**Flower**

26 Christine Morton (2)

**Hospitality**

26 Carol Williams (2)

26 Gail Owens

25 Rhonda Bruce

**Nominating**

26 Nancy Stockwell

**Nursery**

26 Kristen Warren (2)

25 Annie Denham

**WCCC**

26 Shelley VanderWende

26 Jim VanderWende

25 Robert Crean

24 Keri Bristow (2)

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## Annual Meeting Warning

Notice: The members of the First Congregational Church of Woodstock, Vermont Inc., are called to meet on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 7:00 pm to conduct the following business:

1. To vote on a motion to suspend the bylaw-required term break of 2023 for Kerilyn Bristow's second three-year term on the Woodstock Christian Child Care Board and extend it by one year, concluding 2024;
2. To vote on the Nominating Slate as proposed by the Nominating Committee;
3. To review and vote on the 2024 Budgets, including the normal operating budget and major expense budget, as proposed by the Board of Deacons, and to review the Woodstock Christian Child Care budget, as proposed by the WCCC board and approved by the Board of Deacons;
4. To vote and approve the minutes of the November 10, 2022, Annual Congregational Meeting;
5. To address any other business that is properly brought before the membership;
6. To join in a closing prayer.

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## Save the Date!

**Saturday, November 4** — 9:30 am-12:30 pm COT food drive

**Thursday, November 9** — 7:00 pm-9:00 pm Annual Meeting

**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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## Volunteers Needed!

COT will host Wassail drinks and s'mores on the FCCW front lawn Sat Dec 9th from 11am-2pm. We need **at least six** volunteers serving in shifts. You can help with preparing the wassail in the morning, serving wassail from 11-2, and/or cleaning up from 2-3pm.

Contact Keri Bristow at [kerilynbristow@gmail.com](mailto:kerilynbristow@gmail.com) to sign up!

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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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## Join the WCCC Teaching Team!

Are you looking for rewarding work with young children, part or full time? Woodstock Christian Child Care (WCCC) has immediate openings for part-time or full-time Trainees, Teacher Assistants, or Teachers for our full-day program for ages 6 weeks to PreK, and our After School Program for PreK to Grade 2. This is a great opportunity for college students interested in ECE, nursing, or human services to gain experience. WCCC has been serving children and families in the area for 29 years. If you are 18 years old or older, enjoy children, or would like to explore a career in early childhood education, please contact the WCCC Executive Director Ruth Brisson at [rbrissonwccc@gmail.com](mailto:rbrissonwccc@gmail.com). Thank you!

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## **Loyalty in an Age of Infidelity**

“You shall not commit adultery.”

**1. God Has Given Us Marriage as a Good Gift.**

**2. He Established it as *the Sole Context for Sexual Intimacy.***

**3. Christ Has Redeemed Us from Our Whoredom.**

CONCLUSION: We could reproduce with a whole lot less mess and fewer complications, but God designed sex not only for us to produce offspring, but *so that we might enjoy one another*. The intimacy for husband and wife to delight in together is *His* idea. As its Designer, God knows it can be as destructive as it can be beautiful, and so He has given it to us for our pleasure in a very limited context—exclusive matrimony. Unfortunately, we have treated His good gifts with contempt, thinking we know better. Thankfully, Christ has not left us in our brokenness, but has redeemed us from even our whoredom and infidelity. Let us honor marriage and encourage one another to guard the marriage bed as we should!

## Westminster Larger Catechism

**Q. 138.** What are the duties required in the seventh commandment?

**A.** The *duties required* in the seventh commandment are, chastity in body, mind, affections, words, and behavior; and the preservation of it in ourselves and others; watchfulness over the eyes and all the senses; temperance, keeping of chaste company, modesty in apparel; marriage by those that have not the gift of continency, conjugal love, and cohabitation; diligent labor in all our callings; shunning all occasions of uncleanness, and resisting temptations thereunto.

**Q. 139.** What are the sins forbidden in the seventh commandment?

**A.** The *sins forbidden* in the seventh commandment, besides the neglect of the duties required, are, adultery, fornication, rape, incest, sodomy, and all unnatural lusts; all unclean imaginations, thoughts, purposes, and affections; all corrupt or filthy communications, or listening thereunto; wanton looks; impudent or light behavior; immodest apparel; prohibiting of lawful, and dispensing with unlawful marriages; allowing, tolerating, keeping of stews, and resorting to them; entangling vows of single life; undue delay of marriage; having more wives or husbands than one at the same time; unjust divorce or desertion; idleness, gluttony, drunkenness, unchaste company; lascivious songs, books, pictures, dancing, stage plays; all other provocations to, or acts of uncleanness, either in ourselves or others.

### Bible passages listed with catechism:

Acts 24:24-25; Prov. 2:16-20; 1 Tim. 2:9; 1 Cor. 7:2, 9; Prov. 5:19-20; 1 Pet. 3:7; Prov. 31:11, 27-28; Prov. 5:8; Gen. 39:8-10.

Prov. 5:7; Heb. 13:4; Gal. 5:19; 2 Sam. 13:14; 1 Cor. 5:1; Rom. 1:24, 26-27; Lev. 20:15-16; Matt. 5:28; Matt. 15:19; Col. 3:5; Eph. 5:3-4; Prov. 7:5, 21-22; Isa. 3:16; 2 Pet. 2:14; Prov. 7:10, 13; 1 Tim. 4:3; Lev. 18:1-21; Mark 6:18; Mal. 2:11-12; 1 Kings 15:12; 2 Kings 23:7; Deut. 23:17-18; Lev. 19:29; Jer. 5:7; Prov. 7:24-27; Matt. 19:10-11; 1 Cor. 7:7-9; Gen. 38:26; Mal. 2:14-15; Matt. 19:5; Mal. 2:16; Matt. 5:32; 1 Cor. 7:12-13; Ezek. 16:49; Prov. 23:30-33; Gen. 39:10; Prov. 5:8; Eph. 5:4; Ezek. 23:14-16; Isa. 23:15-17; Isa. 3:16; Mark 6:22; Rom. 13:13; 1 Pet. 4:3; 2 Kings 9:30; Jer. 4:30; Ezek. 23:40.

# Taking Gathered Worship Home

Our culture worships at the altar of sexual freedom. Any restraint is scoffed at as repression. But sex is God's gift for husbands and wives to enjoy together exclusively. He designed it and is *not* against it, but rather knows both its benefits and its dangers.

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

## Sunday Morning

READ **Exodus 20:14; First Corinthians 6:18-20; 7:1-5; Hosea 1-14; Ephesians 5:1-33; First Thessalonians 4:1-8; Leviticus 18:1-6; Psalm 94:1-3; 119:81-96.** DISCUSS How do we dishonor God through the misuse of His good gift to us? How are idolatry and adultery related? MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 6:18-20** with WLC #138-9. PRAY "Faithful Father, enable us to delight in what You have provided and to not lust after what You have not. Teach us the proper place for affection and enable us to be satisfied in You alone."

## Sunday Evening

The **Young Adult Fellowship Group** will meet tonight at 6pm.

## Monday

READ **Exodus 20:14; Genesis 2:11-25; Hosea 1:1-11; First Corinthians 7:1-5; Psalm 119:81-96.** DISCUSS Where did sex originate? To whom does it belong? How does God view its misuse? What is the relationship between sex and service to God? SERVE by taking time to help someone! MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 6:18-20** with WLC #138-9. PRAY, "Faithful Father, Thank You for Your good gifts. Make us more grateful to You. Soften our hearts to love You."

## Tuesday

READ **Exodus 20:14; Hosea 2-4; Ephesians 5:1-33; Psalm 119:81-96.** DISCUSS How do all other relationships relate to the husband/wife foundation? Who submits to whom? How? MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 6:18-20** with WLC #138-9. PRAY, "Faithful Father, Thank You for giving us families and showing us Your love."

### Wednesday

READ **Exodus 20:13; Hosea 4-9; First Thessalonians 4:1-8; Psalm 119:81-96**. DISCUSS How are we to walk in holiness? For what is your body set apart? To what has God called us? MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 6:18-20** with WLC #138-9. PRAY, “Faithful Father, Thank You for calling us in holiness!”

### Thursday

READ **Exodus 20:12; Hosea 10-14; Leviticus 18:1-6; Hebrews 13:4; Psalm 119:81-96**. DISCUSS What similarities do you see between Exodus 20 and Leviticus 18? What is the basis for our holy living? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 6:18-20** with WLC #138-9. PRAY, “Faithful Father, forgive us for our infidelity.”

### Friday

READ **Exodus 20:14; First Corinthians 6:18-20; 7:1-5; Hosea 1-14; Ephesians 5:1-33; First Thessalonians 4:1-8; Leviticus 18:1-6; Psalm 94:1-3; 119:81-96**. DISCUSS What has God been teaching you this week? SERVE by *caring for someone in need!* MEDITATE on **First Corinthians 6:18-20** with WLC #138-9. PRAY that we at FCCW would *honor Christ together*.

### 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*. PRAY, “Faithful Father, bring us together to worship You in holiness.”

## First Corinthians 6:18-20

“Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.”