



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

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

*April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024*



**and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.**

**And we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets; and we believe in one holy catholic<sup>2</sup> and apostolic church; we acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and we look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

❖ Creedal Song	<i>Barocha</i>	Congregation
❖ Scripture Reading	Zephaniah 3:16-17	Pastor
❖ Song of Reflection	<i>Behold, What Manner of Love</i>	Congregation
The Sermon	Mark 3:13-19 <i>“God’s Love for His People”</i>	Pastor
❖ Hymn of Response #693	<i>Blessed Assurance</i>	Congregation
❖ Benediction	2 Corinthians 13:14	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 ~~*

<sup>2</sup> The term “catholic” here means universal and does not mean any particular denomination.

*Prelude: Variations on Slane (Lasky)*  
*Offertory: The Love of the Father (Ferguson/Thomas)*  
*Postlude: Jesus Calls Us (Lovelace)*

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**Letter to the First Congregational Church of Woodstock**

Dear Church Family,

Representatives of the Board of Elders, Deacons, and Woodstock Christian Child Care have been meeting with the New Peace Network leaders, David and Judi Glidden, over the last few months to work toward better communication and operational procedures. It has been a positive opportunity for growth and mutual understanding. We would like to update you as to our progress and invite you to an informational meeting after church **TODAY**. We hope that many of you will attend to listen and understand what we have learned.

Sincerely,

Doug Warren, Karl Huck, Tom Johnston, Terri DeDell, Peter Vanderhoof, Keri Bristow, and Ruth Brisson

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**Young Adult Fellowship Group will meet in the library  
this evening at 6:00 pm.**

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**April Prayer Letter**

Copies are available on the back table. Our missionaries of the month are Steve and Miki Thrall. Pick up a copy of the prayer letter and read about what God is doing through their ministry in Normandy, France, as well as some specific ways you can pray for them and the artists they minister to.

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**New address lists, 2024 committee lists, and copies of the  
2023 annual report are available in the Billings Room.**  
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## Save the Date!

**Today! Sunday, April 21** — *Informational Meeting following the worship service*

**Sunday, May 5** — Visit from missionary Caleb Rayapati

**Saturday, May 18, 2:00-4:00 pm** — Libby Warren's Bridal Shower

**Thursday, May 30, 6:00 pm** — Supper Talk: Beyond "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God." Who was Jonathan Edwards and why should we know about him? Meal at 6 pm followed by the presentation given by Paul Hoehner

**Saturday, June 1, 8:00-9:00 am** — Men's Prayer Breakfast

**Sunday, June 2** — No Sunday School, worship service at 10:30

**Friday, June 7** — Congregational Prayer Gathering

**Sunday, June 9** — Summer schedule begins with worship at 9:30

**Sunday, July 21** — Church Picnic on the WCCC playground (rain date July 28)

**Saturday, August 24** — Libby Warren's wedding here at FCCW

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## Nursery Staff Position

We are looking to hire someone as our Nursery Attendant. Please join us in praying for the Lord to raise up a mature, responsible adult (18+) who loves Jesus and children and who would be the anchor for caring for the little ones on Sunday mornings, assisted by volunteers from the congregation. For more information or to apply, please contact Karl Huck at [karlhuck@gmail.com](mailto:karlhuck@gmail.com). Thank you.

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## Bridal Shower

Ladies of all ages are invited to a bridal shower on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00-4:00 pm at the parsonage (36 Elm St.) Come celebrate bride-to-be Libby Warren!

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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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## **Mark's Gospel—Jesus' True Identity Reveals the Magnitude of His Sacrifice**

10:30 Morning Worship Service:

Mark 3:13-19

### **God's Love for His People**

*Jesus Calls Whom He Desires and He Desires Whom He Calls.*

- 1. Jesus Calls Twelve Disciples (13).**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2. He Calls Them to Be in Relationship with Him (14-19).**
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3. We Are Also Called into Relationship with Jesus.**

Conclusion: In describing Jesus' choice of disciples, Mark gives us a list of their names, but he also gives us much more. He describes why Jesus chose them. So they might be with Him. Everything else flows from this—relationship. His calling reflected His love, what the Bible describes as God delighting in them and us. Has this love changed you? Let us delight in His great love for us so that we can love others too.

### **Zephaniah 3:16-17**

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
“Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak.  
The LORD your God is in your midst,  
a mighty one who will save;  
*he will rejoice over you with gladness;*  
he will quiet you by his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing.

### **Isaiah 62:5; 65:17-19**

For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your *God rejoice over you.*  
“For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth,  
and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.  
But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create;  
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,  
and her people to be a gladness.  
I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people;  
no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress.

### **Jeremiah 32:38-41**

And they shall be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them one heart and one way, that they may fear me forever, for their own good and the good of their children after them. I will make with them an everlasting covenant, that I will not turn away from doing good to them. And I will put the fear of me in their hearts, that they may not turn from me. *I will rejoice in doing them good*, and I will plant them in this land in faithfulness, *with all my heart and all my soul.*

### **John 17:20-26**

“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and *loved them even as you loved me.* Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. O righteous Father, even though the world does not know you, I know you, and these know that you have sent me. I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”



# Taking Gathered Worship Home

Jesus calls His disciples primarily so that they can *be with Him*. This relational priority shapes everything else. How they are to follow Him, represent Him, speak on His behalf—it all flows out of knowing Him.

*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 **Mark 3:13-19; Zephaniah 3:16-17; Isaiah 62:5; 65:17-19; Jeremiah 32:38-41; John 17:20-26; First John 3:1-3.** DISCUSS Do you know the love of God? Has His love overwhelmed you? How is your relationship with Jesus growing? SERVE someone in need. MEDITATE on **John 14:18-21.** PRAY “Lord Jesus, thank You for Your great love for us, Your people. Enable us to love You and one another faithfully.”

## Sunday Evening

Young Adult Fellowship meets at **6pm** in the church library (back door).

## Monday

READ **Mark 3:13-19; Zephaniah 3:16-17; John 17:20-26.** DISCUSS What does it mean for God to “rejoice over you” according to the Bible? What difference does that make in your life? SERVE by putting someone else’s interests *above your own!* MEDITATE on **John 14:18-21.** PRAY, “Lord, we praise You for setting Your great love upon us. Teach us to delight in You above all else and so walk in Your love.”

## Tuesday

READ **Mark 3:13-19; Jeremiah 32:38-41; John 14:18-21.** DISCUSS What does Abraham’s faith have to do with us? How does Christ’s faithfulness in going to Calvary for all His people give us confidence? How are you praising Him? SERVE by considering someone else’s needs *above your own!* MEDITATE on **John 14:18-21.** PRAY, “Lord, we long to love you as wholeheartedly as You love us. Continue to perfect us more and more into Your image, Lord Christ, that we might love others in ways that reflect You.”

### Wednesday

READ **Mark 3:13-19; Isaiah 62:5; 65:17-19; First John 3:1-3.** DISCUSS How is God's love transforming you? Be specific. Ask the Holy Spirit to continue this work in you and us at FCCW. SERVE by *caring about someone else* more than yourself! MEDITATE on **John 14:18-21.** PRAY, "Lord, Your love is too amazing for us to comprehend. Enable us to believe it and so act and live."

### Thursday

READ **Mark 3:13-19; John 17:20-26; First John 3:1-3.** DISCUSS How can it be that God the Father loves us as He loves Christ His Son? How is this defining every aspect of your life? MEDITATE on **John 14:18-21.** PRAY, "Loving Father, You have loved Christ from before eternity. To consider Your loving us in that same way seems too much for us. Please help, teach, and transform us more and more in the power of this love."

### Friday

READ **Mark 3:13-19; Zephaniah 3:16-17; Isaiah 62:5; 65:17-19; Jeremiah 32:38-41; John 17:20-26; First John 3:1-3.** DISCUSS What has the Holy Spirit been teaching you *this week through these passages?* MEDITATE on **John 14:18-21.** PRAY that we at FCCW would *be transformed together by God's Word through Mark.*

### Saturday

PREPARE for *gathered worship tomorrow.* READ **Mark 3:20-35.** Invite others to join you tomorrow for the *worship service @ 10:30.* Ask Jesus to *reveal Himself to us in His Word by His Spirit.*

## Meditate on John 14:18-21

"I will not leave you as orphans; *I will come to you.* Yet a little while and the world will see me no more, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me *will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.*"