The TRUMPET

January 2021

A publication of the East Woodstock Congregational Church, 220 Woodstock Road, East Woodstock, CT 06244
Pastor: Rev. Dr. Susan J. Foster Director of Christian Education: Louise Labbe-Fahy
Youth Group Director: Anne Sorensen Music Director/Organist: Nancy Ducharme
Bell Choir Director: Andrew Tomkins Office Manager: Heidi Tucker
Office: 860-928-7449 Residence: 860-928-7145 Email: ewccpastor@gmail.com
Website: www.eastwoodstockchurch.org
Office Manager's email: ewccsec@yahoo.com Sunday School: 10:00 am Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

The Trumpet deadline is the 20th of every month!

Pastor's Corner

Journeying toward the Light

The classic image for the Epiphany season is a picture of the wise men riding their camels through the night, led by the glowing star overhead. They are surrounded by darkness but they journey forward, relying on the hope and promise of that distant light.

It is an appropriate image for all of us as we come to the end of the long, dreary experience that was 2020 and look forward to the promise of a New Year. And yet – we still have a long way ahead of us before our lives return to what we optimistically call "normal." The vaccine is a beacon of health and protection from Covid-19 but first we must venture through the dangers and ongoing ravages of this deadly virus. We are indeed still in the darkness while we search for light and hope and new beginnings.

We can take a lesson from the ancient magi. They wisely disregarded King Herod's misdirection and instead focused on the heavenly beam that guided them to Jesus. There were no short cuts to the newborn king. They had to endure a long and complicated trip before finally reaching their goal. They were rewarded by finally arriving in Bethlehem where they discovered the new Savior and presented him with gifts and adoration.

So we continue forward. We look for glimpses of God's Light and hope that will inspire us and provide the resilience we need. We carry with us the promise of Christmas – that God is Emmanuel, always with us. And since God is on this journey with us, we will not lose heart.

Along the way, we can look around us for those who may need an encouraging word or a helping hand. We can reach out to those whose strength is waning and offer the gift of our presence and our prayers. Our goal is that no one will be left behind as we journey toward the gifts of the New Year with renewed appreciation and gratitude.

"Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord rises upon you" (Isaiah 60:1). Let us share this hope near and far.

Yours in Christ,

Sue

Rev. Dr. Susan J. Foster

The following are the scriptures for the month of January:

You are invited to read them as part of your daily devotions and as preparation for worship.

January 3
Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-18

January 10
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

January 17
1 Samuel 3:1-20
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

January 24
John 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

January 31
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Worship News

Join us online on Facebook Live for worship every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. Recordings of the service can be found on the church's Facebook page and our YouTube channel.

January 2: Drive-through Star Gifts. Receive your star gift and Communion elements at the church, 10:00 a.m. – noon.

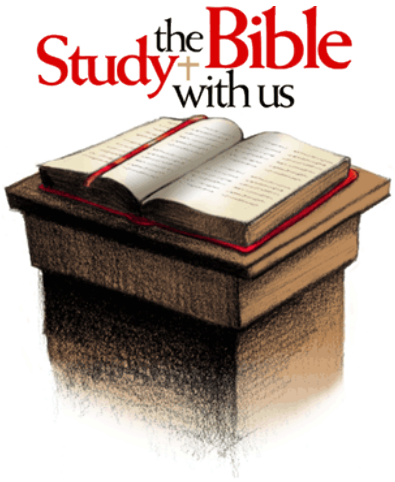
January 3: Celebration of Epiphany. Communion Sunday – please prepare communion at home so we may celebrate together in spirit.

January 10: Online worship

January 17: Online worship

January 24: Online worship

January 31: Prayers for our church and congregation as we prepare for our first ever online Annual Meeting.



Online Bible Chat

Starting in January, our Bible study will move online in order to keep everyone healthy. You are invited to join in by zoom each Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. for a Bible chat. We will check in with one another, Pastor Sue will read the Scripture passages and give some background information. Then there will be an opportunity to chat about the Scripture and how it affects our daily lives. We will end with prayer.

A Zoom link will be sent out. You can join us every Wednesday or whenever you can.

Star Gifts - Stars to go!

Star Gift Sunday – our celebration of Epiphany – is the first Sunday in January. Since we can't distribute stars during worship this year, we are offering "Stars to Go" on Saturday, January 2nd from 10:00 a.m. – noon.

You are invited to drive by the church so that Pastor Sue and the deacons can give you a star word as well as individual communion kits. Then on Sunday we will be able to worship together online, reflect on our star words, and share communion together.

There are always enough star gifts to go around (there are around 400 words!) so feel free to take some for friends, family, or neighbors.

If you can't come by the church on Saturday, please be in touch and we'll find another way to deliver your star gift.

Public Notices

A CALL TO THE ANNUAL MEETING

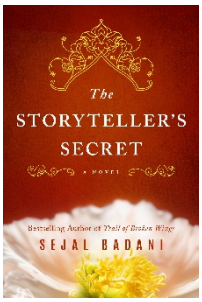
A call for the annual meeting of the East Woodstock Congregational Church which will be held on Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 11:00 am via Zoom to:

1. Hear and act on officer and committee reports.
2. Hear and act on the report of the Society Committee regarding the 2021 budget.
3. Hear and act on the report of the Nominating Committee
4. Hear and act on any other business to come before the meeting.

Called by the Church Council

**Attention all Committee Chairs! **

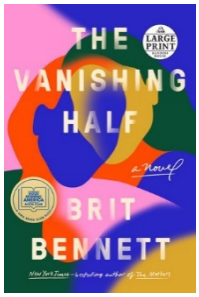
The deadline for all annual reports is **January 11, 2021**. A complete copy of the Annual Report needs to be available to the Congregation by Monday, January 25. Please do your best to get your reports to Heidi on time. Word documents are preferred. Thank you!



Join us for Book Group!

Meet with Anne Sorensen on Zoom for Book Group on Wednesday, January 27th and Wednesday, February 24th.

In January, we will be reading The Storyteller's Secret by Sejal Badani. The main character Jaya, a New York Journalist, travels to India to uncover answers to her family's past with the help of Ravi, her grandmother's servant.



In February, we will be reading The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett. This novel is about twin sisters who live their lives in vastly different ways. Read about what happens after their own daughter's storylines intersect. This story takes place from the 1950s to-1990s.

Please email Anne to tell her you are interested in joining the book group so she can email you the Zoom link. Join Anne for both novels or just one. It is the perfect time of year to read a good book.

Poinsettias in the Sanctuary

Our church was filled with poinsettia plants to be delivered to our friends at home, donated by the following people in memory of or to honor loved ones:

The Boisvert Family	To Honor our Parents and Grandparets
George & Pam Brown	In Memory of George and Barbara Brown, Thomas Converse, Sr.
Richard & Beth Baron	In Memory of Beth's mom Carolyn D. Coleman, Richard's parents Andrew and Laure Baron, Grandpa Carl D. Williams
Linda Felt	In Memory of Jean and Grove Ely
Kerstin & Richard Forrester	To Honor Pastor Sue In Memory of Our Parents
Michelle Hicking	In Memory of My Mom Cheryl Hicking and Uncle Greg Hoevet
Dennis, Kathie & Erin Kelly	In Memory of Rolf and Virginia Swanson, Edmund and Mary Kelly
Todd & Diane Morin	In Memory of Celia and George Barrett, Barbara and Doris Barrett
Stewart & Barbara Morse	In Memory of Fred & Helen Harraden and children Sarah, Jonathan & Fred and Stewart & Janet Morse
Marilyn & Bob Rath	In Memory of Our Parents: Betty and Charlie Rath, Harold and Ruth Ashton
Seth & DeEtta Spalding	To Honor Bill & Carol Cruttenden In Memory of Avis & Paul Spalding
Heidi & Dennis Tucker	To Honor Janet Hansen In Memory of Robert Hansen, Ernie and Mary EllenTucker

LBS NEWS

(Ladies Benevolent Society)

The year 2020 certainly curtailed our well-planned activities! As we start this new year, we know that it will be a while until we can get together again. But I ask you all to keep in touch via social media, phone, or even snail mail! Think about how we can share in distancing events – ZOOM, an outdoor get-together, more? Then let's plan for the second half of 2021! Send me your ideas and I'll communicate them to everyone. Let's get creative as we look forward to an in-person celebration this Fall.

Happy New Year! Stay safe and healthy – wear your mask, social distance, and wash your hands and get vaccinated when the time comes! See you soon.

Blessings,
Kerstin

THANK YOU!!!

Our church is blessed by the work of many volunteers. Every bit of effort and caring helps our church live out its calling to be the Body of Christ. This month we especially would like to thank…

Dottie and Wayne Durst for their generous donation of office supplies for our busy office. These will be put to good use in the months to come!

Dorrie Scranton, Amy Hiller-White, Diane Billings, Kerstin Forrester, and everyone who loaned a nativity scene for making our first-ever Sanctuary Stroll possible. It was a peaceful afternoon filled with beautiful crèches and a chance to reflect on the Christmas story.

We give thanks for the completed life of Rev. Harry Shirley who served the East Woodstock Congregational Church as pastor. May he rest in peace and rise in God's glory.

The Rev. Harry Pickford Shirley, Jr. died on December 8, 2020. He was born September 9, 1931 in Worcester, MA, the son of Harry Pickford Shirley, Sr. and Nettie Dyer Mills Shirley.

He attended North high School in Worcester, MA and graduated from Clark University in 1954. In September of that year, he married Carol M. Morong and then completed his ministerial training at Andover-Newton Theological School in Boston, MA.

They had a wonderful marriage of 63 years that has been blessed by three loving and caring children. First, by son Steven and his wife, Diane. Second by their son, Bradford and his wife, Kathy. Third, by our daughter Elaine Beth and her husband, James Verostek. Rev. Shirley is also survived by his grandchildren, Lauren, Mark, Samantha, Garrett, Ashley, Matthew (Angel), and Zachary; and great grandchildren, Mattie Sue, Luke, Gracie, Landon, Calvary, and Noah.

Rev. Shirley served Congregational Churches in East Woodstock, CT, in the Community of Sherman, NY; and in Mill Plain Union Church (UCC) in Waterbury, CT, where he was honored as Minister Emeritus.

Services for Rev. Shirley will be held at a later date. People wishing to contribute to the Oakland Christian Building Fund in Rev. Shirley's name may do so by mailing it to PO Box 2008, Suffolk Virginia 23432. Condolences may be registered online at www.parrfuneralhome.com.

Outreach Committee News

HAPPY NEW YEAR! THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY OVER THE PAST YEAR. The support of this congregation for Outreach programs is truly remarkable.

TUNA AND JELLY have been delivered once again to help families of Woodstock school students through the Caring Continues program. Our church is the major source of tuna and jelly for them, so if you can continue supplying these items, Outreach will deliver them. Thank you.

Our on-line ANGEL TREE gift tag sign-up was a great success. Children at both Covenant to Care and the homeless shelter received gifts from members of our congregation. Your efforts made a huge difference to the children and their families.

Our congregation supported two families through the Take Them A Meal program during most of December. This is such a huge help when families are dealing with difficult circumstances. Thanks to each of you who stepped up and provided a warm meal for these families.

gotsneakers?
A Sneaker Recycling Organization

Reed Magnan is doing a fundraiser to help his Boy Scout troop to travel to Philmont, a large high adventure camp in New Mexico, next August. They will be camping and hiking for 10 days!

The troop has partnered with GotSneakers, a sneaker recycling organization, which will compensate up to $3 for every pair of wearable athletic sneakers. After the sneakers are collected, GotSneakers will process and distribute these sneakers around the world, specifically within impoverished nations. It is estimated that over 300 million pairs of sneakers are thrown away each year in America's landfills and that over 600 million adults and children worldwide live barefoot. We can touch the lives of thousands by simply cleaning out our closets and collecting our unwanted sneakers.

The request is simple: Clean out yours and your family's closets of all unwanted pairs of new, lightly used or moderately used **Athletic Sneakers, Rubber Soccer Cleats, Rubber Baseball Cleats.** There will be a box on the ramp outside Fellowship Hall to drop off your donations.

Thank you!

Youth Group

Middle School Youth Group

Let's meet in person on Sunday, January 10th and Sunday, January 24th from 4:00-5:00 pm at our church.

Game night on January 10th. Please bring a board game to share. Star Gifts will be available too!

Tom Converse and I are excited to see you face to face In January. Please contact Anne if you have any questions.

Senior High Youth Group

Put your faith into action while completing a Youth Internship!

Join me on Zoom on Wednesday, January 13th at 7:00 pm for 45 minutes to brainstorm ways to complete a Youth Internship at our church. This meeting is for any student in high school. I would like to support your involvement in our church while fulfilling community service hours for college applications and resumes. There are ways to complete youth internships from home and reach out to people in our neighborhood.

To join the Zoom call, RSVP to Anne by texting 860-428-2198 by Sunday, January10th, so I know who is joining our call. I will send you the Zoom link on Tuesday before our meeting.

Anne Sorensen, Youth Group Director
860-428-2198
annesorensen065@gmail.com

Sunday School News

On Sunday December 13th I read the story, *The Sweetest Story Ever Told,* by Lysa Terkeurst. I think it's my favorite Christmas story. What I like about it is that it uses cookies to tell the birth of Jesus. What could be better than eating cookies to retell the birth of Jesus.

While you can use any rolled cookie recipe, I like the one in the book for its simplicity. So, I'll share it with you.

CHRISTMAS SUGAR COOKIES

Cream in a mixer:
- 3 eggs
- 2 sticks of butter, softened
- 1 cup of sugar

Add:
- 1 ½ tsp. vanilla
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. salt

Slowly mix in:
- 3 ½ cups of flour

Chill dough one hour. Then, working with ¼ of the dough at a time roll out to desired thickness on a floured surface. Cut with floured cookie cutters. Bake at 350 degrees, 7 minutes or until golden brown. Icing can be made from powdered sugar mixed with milk. Do not make the icing too runny. You can thicken the icing by adding more powdered sugar. Spoon icing into separate cups and add food coloring. Top the cookies with colored icing and enjoy!

An ANGEL brought the great news that Jesus had been born. Wise men followed a bright STAR to the manger where Jesus was. They brought special presents much like the gifts we have under our TREE. The best gift was God's Son Jesus. Jesus came to share God's love (HEART) with us. BELLS ring out during the holiday season to help us celebrate Jesus' birth.

Our celebration of Christmas does not end on Christmas Day, but in fact runs all the way through the season of Epiphany. Have fun and make cookies often and keep telling the story over and over. Share it with family and friends. It's a great way to teach young children (and the young at heart)!

Louise

cedirectorewcc@gmail.com

Children's Page

January 2021

Daily Bread Donations for this month: Canned Vegetables

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Happy New Year!	2 10 – noon Drive Through Star Gifts
3 Celebration of Epiphany Star Gifts 10 am Worship (online)	4 9:00 Community Kitchen Prep 7:00 pm Outreach (Zoom)	5 7 pm Music 7:30 pm Deacons (Zoom)	6 10:00 Bible Chat (online) 7:00 pm Society (Zoom)	7 7:00 pm Bells 7:00 pm Council (Zoom)	8	9
10 10 am Worship (online)	11 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE!!	12 7:00 pm Deacons (Zoom) 7 pm Music	13 10:00 Bible Chat (online)	14 7:00 pm Bells	15	16
17 10 am Worship (online)	18 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 7:00 pm Society (Zoom)	19 7 pm Music	20 TRUMPET DEADLINE! 10:00 Bible Chat (online)	21 7:00 pm Bells	22	23
24 10 am Worship (online)	25 Annual Reports available	26 7 pm Music	27 10:00 Bible Chat (online)	28 7:00 pm Bells	29	30
31 10 am Worship (online) 11:00 am ANNUAL MEETING (Zoom)						

Looking Ahead:

February 17: Ash Wednesday

January Birthdays:

Landen Morin	**Jan. 17**
Sophia LePino	**Jan. 19**
Elias Newall-Vuillemot	**Jan. 19**
Wyatt Robbie	**Jan. 25**
Logan Billings	**Jan. 25**
Jack Billings	**Jan. 27**
Lydia Young	**Jan. 28**

PRAYER PAGE

Today and every day let us be open to God, who promises always to be with us.

Take a moment and be aware of God's presence…

Comforting Blessing

May you see the light in the darkness during these challenging times.
May you feel the loving presence of those who hold you in their thoughts and prayers.
May your spirit find what it needs to sustain you on this journey.
May you discover your inner strength and face all difficulties with dignity and grace.
May you be filled with comfort, love, strength, grace and a lasting sense of….

PEACE.

~Author Unknown

Peace Affirmation for the New Year

God calls me out of darkness to live in light,
God calls me out of falsehood to live in truth,
God calls me out of despair to live in hope,
God calls me out of fear to live in trust,
God calls me out of hate to live in love,
God calls me out of war to live in peace.
I am called by God to fill my heart,
My world,
My universe,
With peace, peace, peace. Amen.
Somesville Union Meeting House UCC, Mt. Desert ME