

*The TRUMPET*  
February 2021

A publication of the East Woodstock Congregational Church, 220 Woodstock Road, East Woodstock, CT 06244  
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**The Trumpet deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of every month!**

As Christmas approached, I realized it had been 9 long months since I had been wearing a mask. I hadn't eaten inside of a restaurant, our adult children braved the grocery store, we stopped visiting friends. We sacrificed family holiday gatherings for safety. We were toeing the "stay home, stay safe" line.

And yet – I still got Covid-19. My first reaction was guilt – what did I do wrong? But this is the nature of an airborne virus that doctors describe as "efficient," meaning that it is easily transmitted. It is virtually everywhere in our everyday environment and now it had entered my home and my family.

Each of us had a different experience with the disease. Our 24-year-old son got a sore throat and felt a bit tired. My husband experienced three days of fever, achiness, and a lingering cough. I grew increasingly exhausted and napped for hours every day. My doctor advised me to measure my oxygen level; when our drug store oximeter measured a concerningly low level, she directed me to the emergency room.

The sun was just rising as we drove to UMass. I looked forward to relief from the tiredness and the constant pressure in my chest. I envisioned a warm welcome by worried caregivers who would tuck me into bed for evaluation and treatment.

The reality of an over-busy emergency department was much different. The harried receptionist barely took my name before directing me to the "dirty room." That description did nothing to raise my spirits. This waiting room looked like something out of a horror film with visibly ill patients slouching in a sea of uncomfortable chairs.

Hours went by. My vital signs were checked and I was sent back to the waiting room. Having a chest x-ray raised my hopes that I might soon be seen by a doctor but again, back to the waiting room. By 5:00 pm I was ready to give up. My husband, who sat outside in the car all day, texted with me about the advisability of returning the following day to try again.

Just as I stood up to go home, my name was called. That long-awaited bed was provided as they determined I needed treatment. I was transferred to the field hospital at the DCU center which was a marvel of engineering; that vast space had been converted into rows of patient rooms divided by curtains and surrounded by temporary nurses' stations filled with computers and diagnostic equipment. It was surprisingly quiet and felt like a place of healing.

I received extraordinary care there. Nurses, aides, therapists, and doctors checked on me constantly. Mostly what I needed were steroids to strengthen my tired lungs and time – time to rest, sleep, and recover.

When they sent me home after five days, they offered this daunting prediction – "you will feel crummy for two more weeks." Bedrest was recommended.

Medicine healed my body. But prayer, compassion, love, and thoughtfulness healed my spirit. Kindness poured into my home as people prayed, sent cards, provided meals, emailed soothing music, ran errands, and delivered flowers.

All of you gave me the necessary, invaluable gift of time as you assured me that you would carry on the work of the church. And you did. You continued to care for one another and for the people in our community. You organized worship and even completed onerous tasks like annual reports and a balanced church budget.

I am filled with gratitude – both for my healing and for the generous help you provided that made it possible. Never underestimate the power of that prayer, card, text, or email. Your caring and compassion were powerful agents in my recuperation.

With renewed appreciation for my health and for the power of the people of God, I belatedly enter into this new year confident that God will see us through and provide us the necessary strength and courage. May God bless us as we endeavor to share God's hope, peace, and healing love.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Susan J. Foster



**The following are the scriptures for the month of February:**

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

**February 7**

Isaiah 40:21-31  
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
Mark 1:29-39



**February 14**

2 Kings 2:1-12  
Psalm 50:1-6  
2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
Mark 9:2-9

**February 21**

Genesis 9:8-17  
Psalm 25:1-10  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15

**February 28**

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16  
Psalms 22:23-31  
Romans 4:13-25  
Mark 8:31-38, 9:2-9

**WORSHIP NEWS**

*Join us 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.*

**February 7:** Communion Sunday. Please prepare communion at home (using bread, crackers, juice, or whatever you have) so that we may share God's gifts together during worship.

**February 14:** Jazz Sunday. Our own Nancy Ducharme will treat us to some lively, toe-tapping tunes as we bid the season of Epiphany good-bye.

**February 17:** Ash Wednesday. Service at 7:00 pm.

**February 21:** First Sunday in Lent

**February 28:** Second Sunday in Lent



Study <sup>the</sup> Bible  
with us



**Online Bible Chat**

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.

## **News from the Pews**

*Do you have a special event you would like to share with your Church family – a birth, a graduation, a new job, an engagement, a wedding, a special honor, etc., etc.? Drop a note off in the secretary's office or e-mail Heidi at [ewccsec@yahoo.com](mailto:ewccsec@yahoo.com).*

*We give thanks for the completed lives of*

**Judy Baer and Don Rapose**

*We ask God to provide comfort and strength to their families – Ed and Lori Hemphill and Lynda Higgins – as we rely on God's promise of peace and eternal life.*



## **Lenten Gatherings**

Join Pastor Sue on Wednesday evenings beginning February 24<sup>th</sup>, for prayer and conversation as we explore our Lenten journey to Easter. We will meet on Zoom at 7:00 pm. Here is the Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87822826646?pwd=WmJoZWltcHlvcVVuQk1TdnFOYUk2QT09>

## Outreach Committee

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE TUNA AND JELLY that continues to arrive in the bin on the ramp. It is taken to the Caring Continues pantry and is distributed to families of children in the Woodstock school system.

The following thank you notes have been received from those to whom we have made donations:

WAIM (Windham Area Interfaith Ministry)	\$150
WAIM Walk for Warmth – supporting the local fuel fund	\$ 50
Danielson Veterans Coffee House	\$ 50
Silver Lake Conference Center	\$100
The Underground – ministry to trafficked victims & survivors in CT	\$100
Camp Care (in honor of Kristen Robbie) - committed to caring for children with special needs and their families	\$100
Windham County 4-H Foundation, Inc.	\$100
NEPS – Northeast Placement Service	\$100

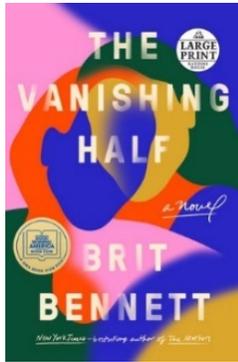
THE FINAL FIGURES ARE IN FOR THE 2020 CROP Hunger Walk which supports not only local food banks, but also needs beyond our community through Church World Service. The total raised by five local churches is \$4,921.10. It is expected that an additional \$500 will be received from a matching corporate donation. EWCC contributed \$354.00 to this event. Twenty-five percent of the money stays local, and was allocated as follows:

\$375.50 to Community Kitchen  
\$854.78 to Friends of Assisi Food Bank

**A special thank you to Angela Billings, Diane Billings, Andy Krofina and everyone** who helped collect clothing and toys for the foster baby. Lisa, the foster mom, sent a note of appreciation for all of your efforts.

Cris Waldron – [cmwaldron@charter.net](mailto:cmwaldron@charter.net)





### Join us for Book Group!

Meet with Anne Sorensen on Zoom for Book Group on Wednesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>.

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 daughters' 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. It is the perfect time of year to read a good book!

To My Friends at EWCC –

I felt it was high time I sent you this note of thanks for the many beautiful cards you've sent me all "these years".

I'm always happy to see your cards and read your heartfelt words.

It's like finding "sunshine" in my mailbox!

Stay well, be strong in these difficult times. This too shall pass.

Love and prayers to you all –

"Your Friend" ... Holly Edwards

In this season of light and life....and the beginning of a New Year, I count my many blessings. I would like to extend a "HEARTFELT THANK YOU" to my EWCC church family and beyond for your time given to my family and me during my recent medical journey! Your time given to my family providing them with many delicious meals and treats have been immeasurably appreciated! My grandchildren looked forward to their daily "dinner surprise!"

Your many kind gestures of prayers, text messages and cards gave me the strength to power on during a difficult time of losing my mother to COVID and the uncertain days ahead of me.

Every day, I count my many blessings...to the 27-year-old male stem cell donor, my family, friends, the expert medical personnel at Dana Farber, our beautiful community and all of YOU! I am feeling stronger each day and progressing as expected.

I look forward to the day when we can all safely worship together and I can "Thank You" personally!

Many blessings to all in this New Year 2021!

Forever grateful, Karin Tourtellotte

## **Youth Group News February 2021**

### **Middle Youth Group**

**February 7th:** Join Tom Converse and Anne Sorensen on Zoom at 4:00 pm. We want to see your smiling faces and hear how things are going for you. Watch your email for the Zoom link!

**February 21st:** Let's meet in person at our church. Join us from 4:00 – 5:00 pm. Please wear a mask. We will have physically distance activities planned for you.

**Congratulations** to Carleigh Boisvert and Sydney Schuler. Carleigh and Sydney completed a youth internship in December. The goal of their internship was to remind members of our congregation that we did not forget them. The young women realized that the holiday season would be tough for people who could not see their families because of COVID-19. Carleigh and Sydney prepared and delivered meals and Christmas cookies to members of our congregation who were staying home. Completing an internship during a pandemic had its challenges! Carleigh and Sydney complete 28 hours of volunteer work. It was a pleasure working with them!

For more information about youth internships for high school students, call or email Anne Sorensen with your questions.

Email: [annesorensen065@gmail.com](mailto:annesorensen065@gmail.com)

Cell: 860-428-2198



# Sunday School News

Currently the children and I are working on Jonah and the Whale during our Sunday School Facebook time. I hope your children are enjoying it.

I will be at church on January 30<sup>th</sup> from 10am till noon for “drive up” stars for the children. I enjoy having each of the children get their stars. It’s always exciting to see the wonder on each of their faces as they try to figure out what God might reveal to them over the next year.

In February we will be doing, “Great Signs of Love”. That love is not only a word, but that we show love through our actions. Who shows us love, both throughout history, but also now? How have they showed love? How can we show love? Who/what should we love? Is there anything/one that we should not love?

I want to take a minute to thank Kim Robida for her six years on the Christian Education Board. She has been wonderful to work with. Anytime I needed help for anything, she has always said yes. She will be missed. THANK YOU, KIM!

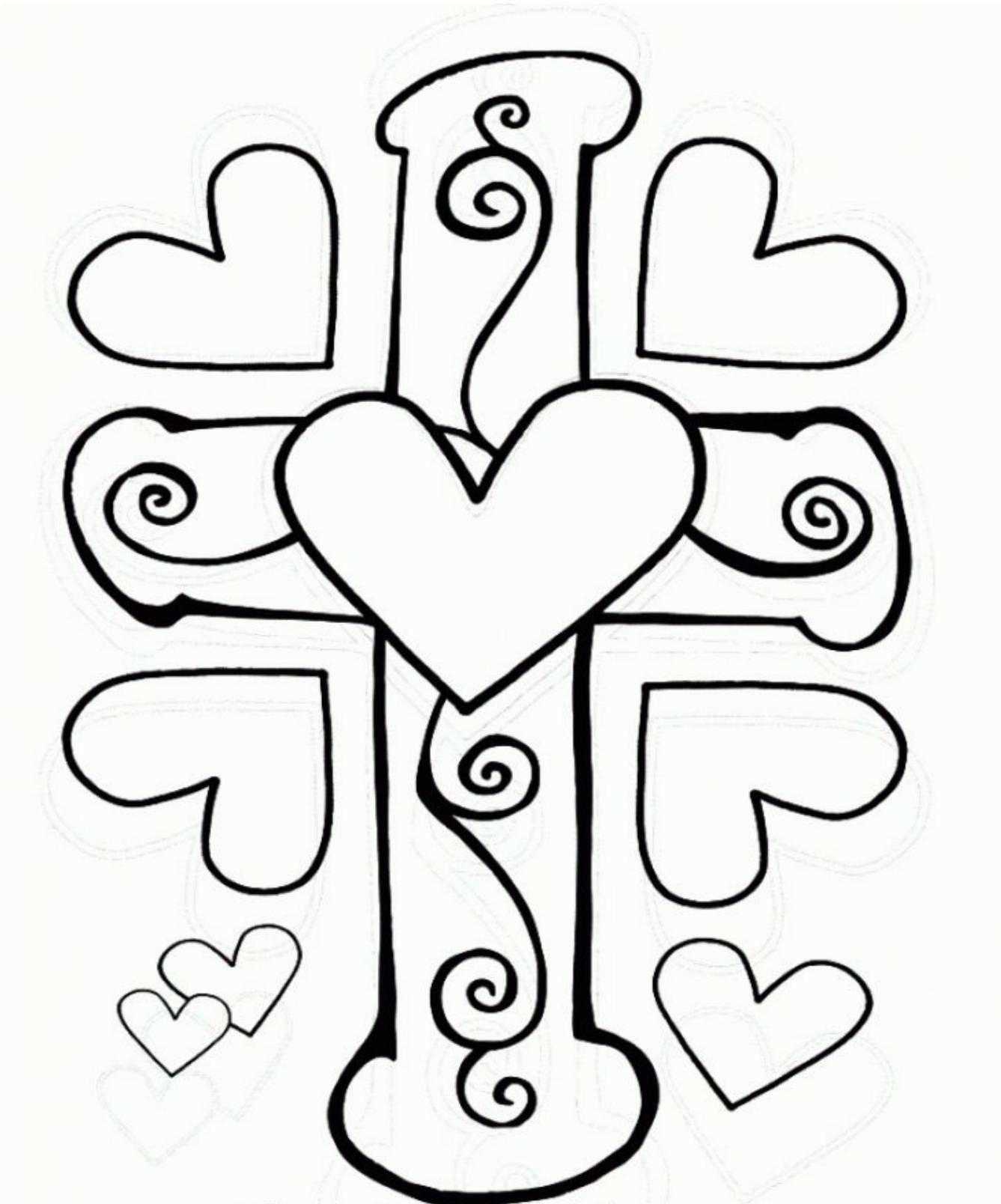
Louise  
[cedirectorewcc@gmail.com](mailto:cedirectorewcc@gmail.com)



*On Valentine's Day, remember -*

**GOD IS  
LOVE**

*Children's Page*



February 2021						
Daily Bread Donations for this month: Canned Fruit						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 9 am Community Kitchen (Hill)	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10 am Study Group (Zoom)	<b>4</b> 7:00 pm Bells	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 10:00 Worship (online) 4:00 pm Middle Youth Group (Zoom)	<b>8</b> 7:00 pm Outreach (Zoom)	<b>9</b> 7:00 pm Sanctuary Singers 7:30 pm Deacons	<b>10</b> 10 am Study Group (Zoom)	<b>11</b> 7:00 pm Bells	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>Jazz Sunday</b> 10:00 Worship (online) <b>Valentine's Day</b>	<b>15</b> <b>President's Day</b> 7:00 pm Society (Zoom)	<b>16</b> 7:00 pm Sanctuary Singers	<b>17</b> <b>Ash Wednesday</b> <b>7:00 pm Service</b> 10 am Study Group (Zoom)	<b>18</b> 7:00 pm Bells	<b>19</b> <b>TRUMPET DEADLINE!!</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 10:00 Worship (online) 4:00 pm Middle Youth Group	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:00 pm Sanctuary Singers	<b>24</b> 10 am Study Group (Zoom) 7:00 pm Lenten Gathering (Zoom)	<b>25</b> 7:00 pm Bells	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 10:00 Worship (online)						

**Looking Ahead:**

**March 28<sup>th</sup> – Palm Sunday**



**February Birthdays:**

- |                               |               |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| <b>RJ Duncan</b>              | <b>Feb 3</b>  |
| <b>Cameron Robida</b>         | <b>Feb 6</b>  |
| <b>Brayden Bottone</b>        | <b>Feb 7</b>  |
| <b>Adelise Young</b>          | <b>Feb 9</b>  |
| <b>Akira Newall-Vuillemot</b> | <b>Feb 16</b> |
| <b>Noelia Reed</b>            | <b>Feb 26</b> |
| <b>Abigail Converse</b>       | <b>Feb 27</b> |
| <b>Libby Fischkelta</b>       | <b>Feb 27</b> |

# PRAYER PAGE

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

## **A Coronavirus Prayer for this Weary Winter - Kerry Weber**

(This prayer was first published on AmericaMagazine.org, accessed at <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/12/04/coronavirus-prayer-winter>)

Jesus Christ, Light of the World,  
You understand what it is like to feel alone in the midst of great suffering.  
Remain with us as we continue to endure the coronavirus pandemic.  
Awaken our hearts as we bear witness to the sickness, the sacrifice, even death.  
In these dark months we cry, "How long, O Lord?"  
Help us to watch and pray for signs of your hope.  
When we long for a world returned to normal, inspire us to work toward a world transformed.  
When we feel forgotten and lonely, help us to find solidarity through your love.  
When we cannot see your face, help us to see you in others, especially the essential workers, first responders and medical professionals who labor tirelessly.  
When we feel only sorrow in our souls, help us to know that the joy of the Gospel remains as true now as ever.  
When we feel only grief in our hearts, help us to find consolation in knowing that those who are sick or have died are held in your loving embrace.  
As we walk through this time of darkness, give us faith that we are headed toward brighter days.  
Give light to our eyes. Let us show that light to one another.  
Even in winter, when the ground appears barren, it is warmed by the light of your creation; seeds are nourished and green shoots are pushing up toward the sun.  
Jesus Christ, be our light.  
Amen.

## **Prayer of Confession: — a prayer for Black History Month by Alydia Smith**

God of peace,  
give us the courage, strength and perseverance needed,  
to challenge the systems of racism,  
so that we can clear a path for your justice, peace, and equity.

We believe racism is present in our society and in our church, and throughout time has manifested itself in many forms and in varying degrees.

We know racism is alive in our language and in our structures, and through our systems it actively works to deconstruct your glorious design, blocking the path to justice, equity, and peace that Jesus brings.  
Racism exists, and it challenges the gospel message that we cry.

We cry abundant life for all, knowing that we are slowly being suffocated by the pervasive evil of racism:

some of us are choking;  
some of us cannot breathe;  
some of us are dead.

We cry peace, knowing that we are the instruments of God's peace and that such peace cannot exist without justice, equity, compassion, and God's grace.

We cry Emmanuel, God with us, knowing that to God, every life matters—God is with all people— even though as a community and as a society we have stated through our actions that some lives matter more than others.  
Compassionate One,  
Help us to understand how racism finds life in our hearts and in our cries.

In this time of tense anticipation, may we commit ourselves to be people of your way crying and creating a path for justice, equity, and peace for all people in this wilderness of hatred and racism.  
Amen.