



# *The TRUMPET*

October 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!**



## Grateful

When I was on sabbatical, I bought a handbag with the word “grateful” on it. I am not much of a shopper. I can usually talk myself out of almost any purchase (much to my children’s disappointment as they were growing up). But the bag’s simple message spoke to me. It defined my prevailing mood throughout my sabbatical. For the entire four months I was away, I experienced gratitude.

I was grateful for

- Time to rest. When people ask what I did during sabbatical, I am hesitant to honestly say, “I slept. A lot.” I had underestimated just how tired I was. The impact of ongoing ministry especially during the pandemic combined with my own experience of the disease in addition to the loss of my father-in-law that winter all brought me to a level of exhaustion. I was grateful to stop and rest.
- This congregation who lived out their belief in God’s concept of Sabbath and sabbatical by providing both funds and time. God promises that rest is not only necessary but also good for us. I was grateful for this extended time of renewal.
- Danielle’s ministry and the congregation’s openness to a new minister. EWCC has a

long history of welcoming and nurturing new and student ministers. This congregation has offered a gracious atmosphere in which to learn and grow. And Danielle did an excellent job serving this congregation. I was grateful to know that EWCC’s powerful ministry continued under skilled leadership.

- Time with my family. I didn’t have to squeeze in time to visit my parents – I could relax and offer them the care and attention they deserved. Roger and I were overjoyed to travel with our adult children – such a treat to experience the beauty of Alaska together as a family. Those precious memories are priceless. And I am so grateful.

This experience of gratitude provided new insight into the phrase, “My cup overflows.” My heart was overwhelmed daily with gratitude for the beauty I encountered, for the opportunity to rest and heal, and for God’s invitation simply to soak it all in and enjoy.

And now I am grateful to be back among you as we venture forward in this new era of pandemic and healing. I am grateful that we are surrounded by the presence of God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Susan J. Foster

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

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

**October 3**

Job 1:1, 2:1-10  
Psalm 26  
Genesis 2:18-24  
Psalm 8  
Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12  
Mark 10:2-16

**October 17**

Job 38:1-7, 34-41  
Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c  
Isaiah 53:4-12  
Psalm 91:9-16  
Hebrews 5:1-10  
Mark 10:35-45

**October 31**

Ruth 1:1-18  
Psalm 146  
Deuteronomy 6:1-9  
Psalm 119:1-8  
Hebrews 9:11-14  
Mark 12:28-34

**October 10**

Job 23:1-9, 16-17  
Psalm 22:1-15  
Amos 5:6-7, 10-15  
Psalm 90:12-17  
Hebrews 4:12-16  
Mark 10:17-31

**October 24**

Job 42:1-6, 10-17  
Psalm 34:1-8, 19-22  
Jeremiah 31:7-9  
Psalm 126  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 10:46-52



**Worship News**

*Join us for worship every Sunday at 10:00 am. You can also join in online on Facebook Live. Recordings of the service can be found on the church's Facebook page and YouTube channel.*

**October 3:** World Communion Sunday. In a divided and conflicted world, we come to God's table to celebrate God's healing and uniting love. Everyone is welcome at God's table. If you are worshipping at home, please prepare some bread/crackers and juice so we can be together in Spirit.

**October 10: Blessing our Outreach Team.** We will offer prayers and a blessing for those who are traveling to the Cathedral of the Beloved today to provide a meal for those without homes and those experiencing food insecurity. Our bell choir will play.

**October 17: Report from Outreach Committee.** We'll hear about their experiences at the Cathedral of the Beloved.

**October 24: Bell Choir ringing.**

**October 31: Reformation Sunday.** A day for Protestants to remember our roots as we celebrate Martin Luther and the changes he brought to how we worship every Sunday.



- Would you like to know a bit more about the Bible?
- Have you wondered what these ancient stories have to do with modern-day life?
- Would you like to get a head-start on Sunday morning worship?

Join us on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. for our study group!

Come every week or drop in when you can and enjoy conversation, questions, fellowship, and learning.

No experience necessary!

We will meet outside on the East Woodstock common. Please bring your own chair and a mask.

**Everyone is welcome!**

*COVID Protocol Update*

*Last Wednesday, 9/22, the Church Council approved the latest protocols as recommended by Society. Since everyone is masked, the seating restriction in the sanctuary has been lifted. All seats are now available for the congregation. Also, we will be attempting to host a modest coffee hour outside, weather permitting, which will give us a safe environment to catch up with each other! We will continue to reevaluate our protocols on a monthly basis.*

**Coffee Hour is Back!**

We have been missing our opportunities for fellowship, support, and conversation! Join us for coffee hour right after worship every Sunday. We will enjoy coffee, cider, and fellowship out on the common. You can sign up to host coffee hour (So simple! No food! The coffee will already be started – all you have to do is set up a table outside with sugar, creamer, and cider. And then put it away afterwards!). Contact the church office to sign up or look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.



**Coffee Fellowship**



**Louise Labbe-Fahy** has started a wonderful new job at UMass Medical Center. That's the good news. The sad news for us is that she will be leaving as our Director of Christian Education. We will be honoring Louise and thanking her for her dedicated service during worship on October 3rd. Louise has blessed us with her creativity, hard work, and dedication for many years. During the pandemic she reached out to our Sunday School families with care, devotion, and an abundance of creative projects. Thank you, Louise for your ministry among us. May God bless you in this new chapter of your journey.



**LBS NEWS**  
(Ladies Benevolent Society)



On Wednesday, September 15, 13 women met to discuss and plan for our Holly Fair which will be held on November 6, 2021. Donna Baldyga and Pat Ziembra will again co-chair the Holly Fair! We will be making some changes because of the uncertainties that COVID is causing – we want to ensure that we allow for spacing and ventilation. We will therefore move our Basket Social outside under a tent, eliminate the sit-down luncheon, and move the various booths around inside. Although we are putting the luncheon on hold for this year, we will have quarts and pints of soup available for takeout. Coffee and cider will also be available; baked goods will be prepackaged.

Now ***we need the Congregation's help***: set aside items for the **New & Like-new** gifts and Christmas decorations; consider us when you make jellies & jams and pickle vegetables; donate your seldom used jewelry; make candies; bake cookies, pies, cakes & bread; and of course, plan your themed baskets! We will soon announce the chairpersons for each of the booths, so you contact them with questions.

Save the following dates:

- October 20 at 1:30 we will meet in Fellowship Hall to put the finishing touches on the Holly Fair.
- November 6 – Holly Fair. All hands on deck!!
- December 15, Christmas party (details to be determined).

Respectfully,

Kerstin Forrester



## Outreach Committee

1. The next Outreach Meeting is Monday, October 4 at 6 pm.
2. **The First Friday Food Fair** continues. Next date is October 1 from 9-12 noon.
3. **Cathedral of the Beloved visit** is scheduled for Sunday, October 10 - see article below.
4. **Caring Continues** - We will be collecting Jelly and Peanut butter in plastic containers as well as macaroni and cheese for the monthly distribution to Woodstock School Families
5. **TEEG:** Thank you to Ann Miller who spoke at church on September 19 on the Healthy Initiative at TEEG.
6. **Prayer Concerns:** We made a donation of \$200 for a railing so Jason Lowe can descend safely downstairs to get to the car. Thank you all who have signed up to take Jason and his daughter a weekly meal.
7. **WAIM (Windham Area Interfaith Ministry)** could always use used children's clothing. Andy volunteers there every Thursday and could bring any donations.



### *Sunday, October 10th*

*Visit to the Cathedral of the Beloved,*

*Pittsfield MA*

*"What you did to the least of my brothers, you did to me"*

*(Matthew 25:40)*

As a parallel to our Pastor, Sue Foster's sabbatical experiences with homelessness, the Outreach committee will sponsor a visit to the Cathedral of the Beloved [www.cathedralofthebeloved.org](http://www.cathedralofthebeloved.org) in Pittsfield, MA. Oct 10 at 1pm, we will join them for worship on the lawn, and EWCC will provide the meal to share with the congregants that day. After sharing, we can visit their coin op "laundry love" site, which provides laundry services and conversation with our friends experiencing homelessness. Pastor Sue will provide a blessing to the group at the beginning of Sunday service after which they will be on their way. **Interested in joining us? Contact Karen Ryker [karenryker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:karenryker@sbcglobal.net)**

*"Faith-based charity provides crumbs from the table.*

*Faith-based justice offers a place at the table."*

*(Bill Moyers)*

# First Friday Food Fair

East Woodstock Congregational Church  
Food Distribution

**For anyone who could benefit from additional food support.**

**October 1**  
**9 AM to 12 Noon** (new hours)



Bags will be provided. Pass the word!

We are still collecting non-perishable food items.  
Collection bins are on the ramp by the entrance to Fellowship Hall.  
Thank you!



## HOLLY FAIR BASKET SOCIAL



We will need your help to make this successful! We are hereby soliciting themed baskets from each of our church committees as well as individuals. Get together with a friend and fill a basket/bowl/pail/box with games/books/wine/cheese/gardening tools/craft kits.

Here's a list of ideas:

1. Consider what you or your family:
  - a. **LIKE;**
  - b. what are their **HOBBIES;**
  - c. what to do they **NEED;**
  - d. what do they **LIKE TO EAT?**



2. CONTAINERS:
  - a. **BASKETS OF ALL SIZES AND SHAPES**
  - b. **BOWLS**
  - c. **FLOWER POTS**
  - d. **WATERING CANS**
  - e. **FISHING CREELS**
  - f. **CANVAS BAGS**
  - g. **DAY PACKS**
  - h. **WASTE BASKETS**
  - i. **BUCKETS - ICE, GARDEN**
  - j. **COLANDERS**
  - k. **STORAGE BOXES**
  - l. **PLATTERS**
  - m. **TINS**



If you need help assembling baskets, contact Kerstin Forrester at [keforrester@atlanticbb.net](mailto:keforrester@atlanticbb.net) or phone/text 860-634-3635 if you are willing to help with advertising and set-up, please contact Kerstin.

We will ensure that all state and local guidelines for distancing and avoiding crowding are enforced. Masks will be required to be properly worn!

This is a significant fundraiser for the church, and we appreciate any help you are able to provide to make this fun and successful!

## Senior Youth Group and Middle School Youth Group

### Leaf Raking October 24<sup>th</sup>

*Immediately Following Worship*



Let us put our faith into action on **October 24<sup>th</sup>** by raking our neighbor's leaves. We will meet after worship to have lunch and divide into groups.

Bring with you:

- A Lunch
- A bottle of water
- Rake and Gloves

**We will return to church by 2:00 pm.**

I am looking for 3 adult volunteers to help with this service project. Please let me know if you are willing to help. Watch your email for all the details.

*Anne Sorensen*  
*Youth Group Director*

Please email at [annesorensen065@gmail.com](mailto:annesorensen065@gmail.com) or call 860-428-2198 for more information about youth activities.

# Sunday School News

It was wonderful to see so many of you on Rally Day. If you were not able to attend, no problem. I will leave registration forms as well as emergency medical consent forms in Fellowship Hall. Registration is one per family, but the emergency medical is one per child. Once you have filled them out, please put them in the CE mailbox in the chapel.

I would also like to let you know that I have resigned as the CE director. It truly has been a real blessing and honor that I have been able to work with you and your children. I feel very fortunate for the time I have shared with each of you. Your children are amazing.

Pastor Sue would like to have a parent meeting on Sunday, Sept 26th immediately following worship. It will be an opportunity to look at where do we go from here. Our children are one of the greatest assets EWCC has. They are the future of our congregation. I recently was talking with the children about why it is so important for them now to develop strong deep roots. We looked at the big tree on the front lawn and saw how strong that tree is. Giving them the foundations they need belongs to each of us. We must establish the strong roots they will need.

“Life rooted in God stands firm”  
Proverbs 12:3

Blessings,

Louise



Children's Page



worship



October 2021						
Daily Bread request: Soup						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 First Friday Food Fair	2
3 10:00 am World Communion Sunday	4 6:00 pm Outreach 7:00 pm Deacons	5 9:00 am Tai Chi	6 10:00 Study Group	7 9:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Bells	8	9
10 10:00 am Worship	11	12 9:00 am Tai Chi	13 10:00 Study Group 1:30 pm LBS (Outside)	14 9:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Bells	15	16
17 10:00 am Worship	18 7:00 pm Society	19 9:00 am Tai Chi	20 <b>Trumpet Deadline!</b> 10:00 Study Group 1:30 pm LBS	21 9:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Bells	22	23
24 10:00 am Worship MOMs Trunk or Treat	25	26 9:00 am Tai Chi	27 10:00 Study Group	28 9:00 am Tai Chi 7:00 pm Bells	29	30
31 10:00 am Worship <b>Happy Halloween!</b>						

Upcoming Events:

November 6: Holly Fair



October Birthdays:

- |                   |         |
|-------------------|---------|
| Amy Shinkiewicz   | Oct. 3  |
| Audrey Noë        | Oct. 12 |
| Tanner Blair      | Oct. 22 |
| Matthew Dearborn  | Oct. 27 |
| Dustin Chamberlin | Oct. 28 |

# PRAYER PAGE

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

*“No one finds time for prayer. You either take time for it or you don't get it.”*

Dear God,  
Enlighten what's dark in me  
Strengthen what's weak in me  
Mend what's broken in me  
Bind what's bruised in me  
Heal what's sick in me  
and lastly...  
Revive whatever peace and love has died in me.  
Amen.

## *Grace of God*

The grace of God means something like:  
Here is your life.  
You might never have been, but you are,  
because the party wouldn't have been complete without you.  
Here is the world.  
Beautiful and terrible things will happen  
Don't be afraid.  
I am with you.

Always pray to have eyes that see the best in people, a heart that forgives the worst, a mind that forgets the bad, and a soul that never loses faith in God.

