



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



Trust

I do not believe that everything happens for a reason. I have witnessed – and perhaps you have, as well – too many awful events to believe that God is directing those circumstances. I have seen people's lives disrupted, plans ruined, hopes crushed, and futures dismantled by accidents, illness, and sometimes just plain evil. It would be a cruel God who would cause a horrific accident or a child's illness or a devastating historical event in order to teach us a lesson. And I don't believe in a cruel God.

So that means that some things – often, many things – are beyond my understanding. I do not have a satisfying answer to the question, "Why?" Why do plans fall apart? Why do dreams get dismantled? Why do the innocent so often suffer?

I do believe in a loving God who promises to show up. I believe in the God of presence. I believe God when God vows, "I will always be with you until the end of the age."

Lately I have been reflecting on the Bible passages about trust:

- Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5)
- When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. Psalm 56
- Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock. Isaiah 26:4

Sometimes – often – things do not go as planned. The future may appear murky. I am invited to put my trust in God – not because God is dictating every aspect of my life but because God has promised never to leave me or abandon me. That means when I am facing

daunting challenges, I trust that I won't do it alone. God has promised to be there when I need God most.

Life is not neat and tidy. Personally, I cannot discover a reason for many events in my own life or in the world around me. But I trust that God is on this journey with me. God offers strength and comfort. God invites me into renewing times of rest. God assures me that I can ask for help – from God and from the people God has placed in my life.

I trust that God is bigger than the overwhelming events in the world.

I trust that God's strength will provide me the ability to go forward.

I trust that God's wisdom can lead me through a maze of difficulties.

I trust that when I have reached my limit, I can turn everything over to God. I don't have to have all the answers.

I trust that when I fail, God will help me begin again.

I trust that God will always love me. And that will be enough, one day at a time.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Susan J. Foster

PS: I commend Kate Bowler's book *Everything Happens for a Reason (and other lies I've loved)* as well as her website www.katebowler.com

I know that God will invite me to take a breath in green pastures:

- Proverbs, "Trust in the Lord." It does mean that I believe that sometimes things just happen. Sometimes things rock our world and take us by surprise. Sometimes things happen to alter the course of our lives, and our future looks cloudy and murky. That's where this passage comes in. Trust in the Lord, not because God is dictating every movement in my life, but because God promises to be there when I need God most.

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 1

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 78 :1-4, 12-16
Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
Psalm 25 :1-9
Philippians 2:1-13
Matthew 21:23-32

October 15

Exodus 32:1-14
Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
Isaiah 25:1-9
Psalm 23
Philippians 4:1-9
Matthew 21:33-46

October 29

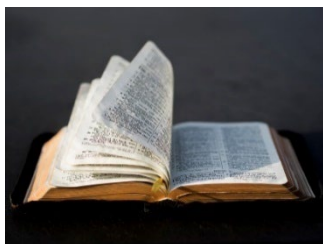
Deuteronomy 34:1-12
Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18
Psalm 1
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
Matthew 22:34-46

October 8

Exodus 20:1-1, 7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:7-15
Philippians 3:4b-14
Matthew 21:33-46

October 22

Exodus 33:12-23
Psalm 99
Isaiah 45:1-7
Psalm 96:1-13
1 Thess. 1:1-10
Matthew 22:15-22



Worship News

Join us for worship every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. Can't attend in person? Join us live on Facebook or our YouTube channel. (Recordings of the service can also be found on both).

October 1: World Communion Sunday.

October 8:

October 15: New member class following worship

October 22: Welcome new members

October 29: Bell choir ringing

Join us for fellowship and conversation each Sunday during coffee hour following worship. Thank you to the Society Committee for hosting coffee hour during October.



- 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!

Everyone is welcome!

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...

Seth Spalding and Chris Workman for cleaning all the gutters (and they are high up!) so that we'll be ready for the fall. Thank you also to Seth for mowing the front lawn of the church.

Laurie Edwards for all her good work in our church kitchen. It is sparkling and organized! We appreciate all your time and effort!



New Members Class

Are you interested in learning more about membership at EWCC? You are invited to join us for new members' classes! This is a chance to ask questions and learn what it means to be a member of our congregation.

Please contact Pastor Sue if you would like to attend: ewccpastor@gmail.com or 860-928-7449

October 1 – Meet with Pastor Sue following worship

October 15 – Afternoon tea with deacons. 3:00 p.m. at Pastor Sue's home

October 22 – Welcome new members during worship

Confirmation News

We have a wonderful class with six confirmands – look for them during worship as they will be encouraged to participate as much as possible in the life of our church.

October 1: Participate in World Communion Sunday



The Men's Breakfasts are back! Join us for good food and fellowship once a month before worship. Breakfast will start at 8:00 am. The next date will be October 22.

LBS NEWS

(Ladies Benevolent Society)

Plans are underway for our **Holly Fair to be held on Saturday, November 4**. We are grateful to Donna Baldyga for again volunteering to co-chair this event. It's time to start planning for all the booths to make sure that we have a successful event. All funds generated will help support our general fund and the refurbishing of the Sanctuary and Narthex.

Please plan on joining us **on October 18, 2023**, at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for Holly Fair planning! We need all the volunteers we can get. It is a fun event.

Respectfully,

Kerstin Forrester



The Holly Fair needs you!!



Calling all crafters!

If you sew, knit, crochet, paint, woodwork, etc... we need your talents for our craft table. This is a very popular booth, requiring the creative hands of MANY people! If you would be willing to donate items (we have lots of ideas if needed) or would like to help cut, sew, wrap... please contact Amy White amyhillierwhite@gmail.com / (860) 315-7816. We are also looking for people to help out behind the table during the event. Thank You!



More Holly Fair needs:

Please consider baking (cookies, quick breads, brownies, muffins, cakes, pies), making candy, jams, jellies, pickles, chutneys, donating jewelry you no longer want, items to sell as New & Like New Gifts, even money to help with purchasing ingredients for the luncheon. The biggest money maker is the Basket Social, so please consider donating a themed basket this year. Any size and theme of your choice is appreciated! You can create one on your own or team up with someone. Please see Kerstin Forrester for more information. Contact our Holly Fair chair, Donna Baldyga, if you would like to help.



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 or phone/text 860-634-3635 if you are willing to help with advertising and set-up, please contact Kerstin.

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



Refurbishment Committee Update: October 2023

Much has happened behind the scenes since the Refurbishment Committee took on the mission to refurbish the sanctuary and narthex. We continue our goal to address the needs of current and future congregations while incorporating aesthetics that pay homage to the blended history of the East Woodstock Congregational Church.

In February, Refurbishment Committee members along with architectural historian Myron Stachiw met with the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) to get a sense of our sanctuary and narthex, review our anticipated projects, and to discuss options for refurbishment grant money. Based on this meeting, Dawn Adiletta, Myron Stachiw, Glen Lessig, and DeEtta Spalding combined their time and talents to develop the first of two refurbishment grant applications.

- Thanks to their work along with the congregation's vote to move forward with the first application, **SHPO recently approved the first grant application.** This 50/50 matching grant authorizes up to \$5,000.00 and includes Myron Stachiw's generous donation of an Historic Structures Report. His research will include an investigation of the sanctuary walls to determine the existence of the original wainscoting, exploration of the original pew configuration, and proposed alterations to the raised dais holding the altar and choir seating. A wall paint analysis to determine original and subsequent layers of paint will supplement the report.
- We expect to complete the Historic Structures Report in the spring of 2024. Each part of this study will provide important historical background information about our sacred spaces. This information will enable us to create a recommended refurbishment plan to be brought to the congregation for approval.

In our meeting with SHPO, their team brought two important issues to our attention: The possible presence of asbestos in interior ceiling tiles, and the possible need for roof repairs.

- We are addressing both issues to comply with the Church's commitment to the historical grant that funded the exterior pillar restoration project and to apply for additional grants.
- We completed asbestos testing in May. Fortunately, no asbestos was found in any of the tested sanctuary and narthex spaces including walls, ceiling, attic insulation, and ceiling tiles. Additionally, no visible glue was used under the carpet - another potential source of asbestos. We also tested for lead paint and found that only a few areas contained lead paint such as window and door casings. The paint is intact in these areas and can be handled appropriately by licensed painting contractors following federal OSHA standards.
- We continue to work with contractors to gather evaluations and estimates for potential roof repairs. and expect a second grant will help offset the costs for any necessary roof work.
- In tandem with these meaningful steps and to meet SHPO's requirements for our grant applications, we are working with Society to develop an **Historic Preservation Plan** that will broadly outline anticipated refurbishments and Church building maintenance needs for the near future.

While the bulk of our current work centers on gathering information and writing reports related to grant work, **we are moving forward with audio/visual updates.**

- Additional wiring and electrical outlets were recently installed, and new speakers, congregation microphone, and a new mixer/amplifier will be added. We are in the process of purchasing a small desk for the A/V operator and equipment and expect to be broadcasting from the new control hub in the southwest corner of the sanctuary by mid-October.
- We continue to visit lighting galleries to investigate fixture options for the sanctuary and narthex, and work with suppliers and consultants to help guide our lighting needs.

While we are all anxious to get started on painting and other needed upgrades, we recognize the importance of applying for grant monies and learning about our Church's architectural history to make relevant refurbishment recommendations to the congregation. **We continue to request any historical references and especially photos** in your collections from before the 1938 hurricane, or any time after

the hurricane prior to the installation of the current interior finishes.

As we reflect on all that we've learned since forming the Refurbishment Committee, we remain steadfast in our belief that God is always with us, guiding us through our work and supporting us as we partner with you and our faith community to continue learning from our past, and planning for the future of our beloved Church.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Wong
Chair, Refurbishment Committee

Book Discussion Group

Our next book discussion will be on Monday, October 30 at 7:00 pm. We are in the process of choosing a book. Please contact Anne Sorensen with any questions.



Art and Craft Show

Mark your calendar...

Saturday, December 2nd 10 am - 2 pm

The Art and Craft Show is back!!



24 vendors will be setting up in Fellowship Hall with a variety of items to sell. Crafts, Christmas decorations and other holiday items will be for sale in the nursery room right off the main room. Coffee, tea and refreshments will be available. There will also be a Penney Social – each vendor will be donating a \$20 item so there will be lots of different gifts available for the lucky winners!

What can you do to help?

1. Mark your calendar and plan to attend!
2. Bake a plate of “finger food” for the refreshment table – cookies, brownies, quick breads, bars, cupcakes, etc. A donation jar will be set up on the table.
3. Help set up – Thursday, November 30 from 6-7 pm – or clean up – Saturday, December 2:30 – 3:00.
4. Serve refreshments, help with the Penney Social, put up posters in various places and invite your friends via Facebook or email.

Please call me if you have any questions!! Thanks in advance.

Karen McFarlin kmcf3470@gmail.com or 860-933-8667.



There will be 24 vendors at this year's Art and Craft Sale! Here's a preview:

Floral Wreaths – Cathy Abissi

Crafts by Pauline – Rustic/Vintage Wine Bottles, Lanterns, Wall Hangings – Pauline Berthiaume

Jewelry – Susan Brunell

Knitting – Marian Chatelle

Jewelry, Candles and Ornaments – Shannon and Patrick Federer

Cats Eye Crafts – Kathryn Glaude

Branch Out Pottery – Deborah Ginter

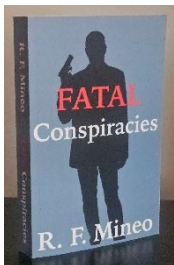
Resin Works – Kim Gonyea

American Doll Clothes – Suzanne Hagstrom

Wooden Birdhouses – Eric Kalwarczyk

Snuggle Up Baby Boutique – Baby Blankets and Dried Wreaths – Cindy Marino

Felt Bird Ornaments and Original Art – Karen McFarlin



Fatal Conspiracies – author Rich Mineo

Gnomies – Ellen Packard

Handmade Soaps – Karen Phaneuf

Rope Baskets – Carol Romprey

Clay Earrings and Jewelry – Gabby Santos



Hand painted Wine Bottles, Boards, Ornaments – Adrienne Schilling

ColorStreet – Kerri Sullivan – Nail Stylist

Pawfect Stitch – Pet Items, Blankets – Beth Tasca-Fellows

Heidi's Handbag Studio – Handbags & Wallets – Heidi Tucker

Christmas Wreaths and Decorations – Audrey Waters

Jewelry by Stacia – Jewelry and Crochet – Stacia Webber

All That Shines – Pens, Tumblers, Key Chains – Erica White



Outreach Committee

DONATIONS NEEDED

1. **Domestic Violence Shelter:** Donations of new or very gently used towels are needed at the shelter.
2. **EWCC Friday Food Pantry:** Approximately 12 people were served on May 5. ***We need pasta, coffee (decaf and caf), pasta sauce, low-salt soups, low-sugar cereal.***

Covenant to Care: Jeanne Murphy, our dedicated and compassionate social worker liaison will be retiring from DCF on January 1, 2024. Ana Rodriques will replace her as one of our DCF liaisons along with Matthew Gilbert, who will continue in his role. Ana has been to the church to help pick up Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas donations and is excited to continue to work with our church.

WAIM (Windham Area Interfaith Ministry) Our next work day is scheduled for October 28 from 9 a.m. -12 noon. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Andy Krofina: andykrofina@gmail.com

Emergency Shelter: Diane Billings brought linens, which are appreciated.

Take Them A Meal: We had a busy summer, providing meals for two families twice a week. Thank you to all those who cooked for Lucy Bousquet and Sue Foster as this is an important ministry.

Caring Continues: Collecting peanut butter and jelly in plastic jars.

PARR – Putnam Area Refugee Resettlement Project: Update

The Afghan family in Putnam is doing very well as the father is employed, they have a vehicle, the parents are learning English and three of the children are enrolled in school.

The Russian family in Danielson is also doing well. They are looking for 2 used 4-passenger vehicles: one for the Russian family and one for the Pashto interpreter's family – also refugees from Pakistan. The Russian father is a mechanic, so he can do repairs. Looking for bicycles for the 12-year-old boy, a 6-year-old boy, and the father.

Transportation Team: Thank you to all who have helped provide rides for Carol and Ken to visit their spouses; it is greatly appreciated. online worship capabilities.



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Sunday School News

Welcome to the Children's Corner at EWCC!

You are welcome here at any age, as long as you can empathize with the younger members of our church family as they learn and take in our world as their bodies and hormones and emotions do new things every day! WHEW!

For September the Children's Corner has been focusing on all aspects of Holy Communion. The students have learned about the last supper, they have made their own unleavened bread, and they have practiced serving their neighbors during worship.

For October they will be exploring The Lord's Prayer. You may even hear some new word choices, if you ask them about the prayer! This prayer is a lesson from Jesus, and we say it in every worship ceremony. Many of the older kids have it memorized but the goal is for them to understand it on a deeper level. The younger kids will find memorizing happens easier when they understand the words.

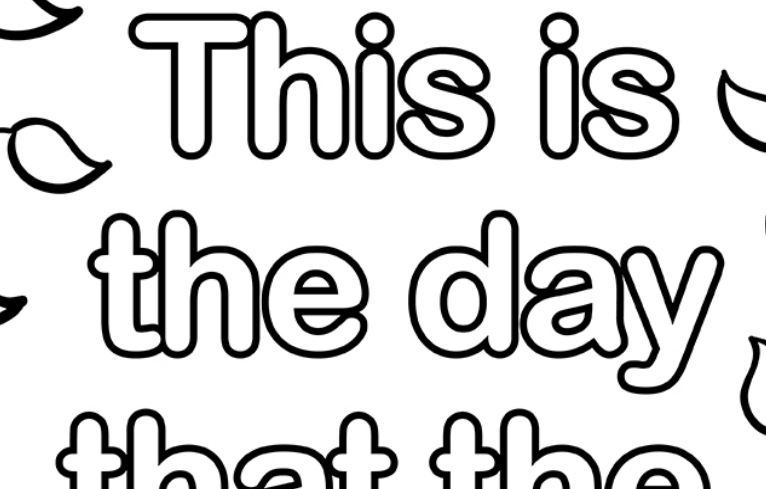
We will begin pageant practice in November, learning about advent, and all the whys around the importance of so many details that are part of the story of Jesus birth.

Thank you, everyone who has filled out a background check form so far. Please keep asking! Offering a nursery every week is such an important way of supporting both the families in our community and the Christian Education of the older kids. For those who have been wondering about the process, you fill out the paperwork and the church does the rest! Once we get the results back, I will reach out.

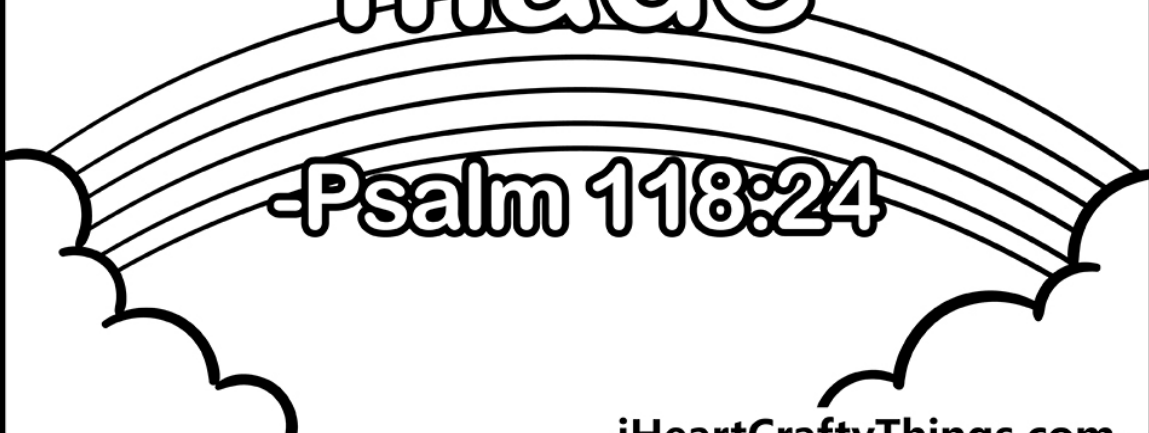
Peace be with you,
Jessica
jessalou@me.com



Children's Page



This is
the day
that the
Lord has
made



-Psalm 118:24

October 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am World Communion Sunday New Members Class	2 9 am Community Kitchen Prep 6 :30 pm Deacons	3 7:00 pm Choir	4 10:00 Study Group 7:00 pm Bells 7:30 pm Al-anon	5	6 9 am – 10 am First Friday Food Fair	7
8 10:00 am Worship	9 6:00 pm Outreach	10 7:00 pm Choir 7:00 pm Council	11 10:00 Study Group 7:30 pm Al-anon	12 7:00 pm Bells	13 9:30 am MOMs	14
15 10:00 am Worship 11:00 am New Members' Class	16 7:00 pm Society (Zoom) 7:00 pm Dartball	17 7:00 pm Choir	18 10:00 Study Group 1:30 pm LBS 7:30 pm Al-anon	19 7:00 pm Bells	20 Trumpet Deadline!	21 Memorial
22 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Worship Welcome New Members Refurb. Comm. 4 pm MOMs Trunk or Treat	23	24 7:00 pm Choir	25 10:00 Study Group 7:30 pm Al-anon	26 7:00 pm Bells	27	28
29 10:00 am Worship	30 7:00 pm Book Discussion	31 Happy Halloween!				

Upcoming Events:

November 4: Holly Fair

November 12: Jeans Sunday

November 19: Thanksgiving Sunday



October Birthdays:

Audrey Noë	Oct. 12
Athena Mondino	Oct. 18
Tanner Blair	Oct. 22
Matthew Dearborn	Oct. 27



Coffee Hour this month will be hosted by Hospitality.

PRAYER PAGE

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

Hear

By Rabbi Rachel Barenblat

What's amazing is
that you hear me.

You hear what I say
and what I leave unsaid.

You hear the stirrings
of my most hidden heart.

What's amazing is
no matter what I say

I'll never be
too much for you.

I don't have to fear
driving you away.

Because you hear me
I'm never alone



Quotes about prayer-

Soren Kierkegaard, 19th century: "Prayer does not change God, but it changes the one who prays."

Satchel Paige, 20th century: "Don't pray when it rains if you don't pray when the sun shines."

Frederick Douglass, 19th century: "I prayed for twenty years but received no answer until I prayed with my legs."

Henry Ward Beecher, 19th century: "It is not well for a man to pray cream and live skim milk."

Mahatma Gandhi, 20th century: "Prayer is the key of the morning and the bolt of the evening."

Joan Chittister, 20th century: "No one finds time for prayer. You either take time for it or you don't get it."