

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!



I grew up on top of a hill in Wallingford, CT in what we called "the little house with the big view." The house was really just a winterized summer cottage built by my great-grandfather. It had tiny rooms, a galley kitchen, and a leaky roof. But the view – that was priceless. Looking west on a clear evening provided us spectacular sunsets that lit up the sky. On cloudy days we could see storms approaching as we watched rain and lightning advance ever closer.

Not too long ago, I drove by that special spot. The house is gone. The trees that we used to climb have been cut down. The fields where the horses grazed are empty.

Nothing lasts forever.

That fact – nothing lasts forever – could either be a cause for rejoicing (think – sitting in a dentist's chair) or a reason to reflect, perhaps even mourn (think – a person/circumstance/place that you miss).

What if we lived with a greater awareness that nothing lasts forever? Would that cause us to appreciate the blessings big and small that exist in our lives? Would we notice the beauty that surrounds us as we hurry from one place to the next? Would we listen – really listen – to the next conversation we hold with a friend or family member? Would we

make time to visit or call someone who has been on our mind?

As we approach Thanksgiving, perhaps the statement "nothing lasts forever" will be an invitation to gratitude and thankfulness.

The Bible tells us, "There is a time for every season." And we all know that seasons change, ebb, flow, and finally end. We cannot alter the passage of time but we can be intentional about noticing and appreciating the moments and the people who fill our lives.

Before my parents moved out of that tiny house on the hill, our whole family gathered there to say a final good-bye. Everyone – adults, children, and grandchildren – were invited to name a spot on the property that held a special memory. We would go to that place, listen to the memory, and give thanks. We stood around the special climbing tree, we walked to the barn and remembered caring for the horses, we squeezed into the microscopic kitchen and reminisced about delicious meals, we sat in the living room and visualized stockings hanging from the mantel and joy being shared.

Through this month of Thanksgiving and beyond, may we be especially aware of the precious gifts that God offers us every day.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue".

Rev. Dr. Susan J. Foster

The following are the scriptures for the month of November:

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

November 5

Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
Micah 3:5-12
Psalm 43
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

November 12

Joshua 24:1-3a
Psalm 78:1-7
Amos 5:18-24
Psalm 70
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 19

Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Psalm 90:1-12
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 26

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Psalm 95:1-7a
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46



Study^{the} Bible
with us



Join us every Wednesday for Bible study, conversation, and fellowship. This informal group meets to talk about the Scriptures that will be read on Sunday and explore how they relate to our lives.

Laughter and learning are promised – please come every Wednesday or whenever you can drop in!

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).

November 5: Communion Sunday. The Sunday School children have been learning about prayer so we will celebrate our special connection to God.

While Pastor Sue is recovering from her second knee surgery, we will be welcoming guest preachers:

November 12: Rev. Tom Meyer, retired UCC pastor. Jeans Sunday, Pledge Sunday.

November 19: Thanksgiving Sunday. Rev. Marilyn Kendrix, Social Justice Preaching Ministry.

November 26: Rev. Tom Meyer. Bell choir ringing.

**Wednesday morning
study group**

10:00 a.m.

Everyone is welcome!



HOLLY FAIR



Saturday, November 4, 2023

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

EAST WOODSTOCK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

220 Woodstock Road

Join us to start your holiday shopping!

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Basket Social | * New & Like New Gifts |
| • Baked Goods | * Christmas Decorations |
| • Cookies | * Crafts |
| • Jellies & Relishes | * Jewelry |
| • Coffee & Cider & Hot Chocolate | * Candies & Buckeyes |
| • Hospitality Corner | * Soups-to-Go |

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 soups. 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. Items can be dropped off from 9 am – 1 pm Monday – Friday. 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, etc.

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. FLOWERPOTS
- 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



More Holly Fair News



Thank you to all who have and are creating baskets!! We need all that we can get. Kerstin will be in Fellowship Hall on November 1, 2, 3, and 4 from 10 am to 4 pm to help you wrap baskets! If you have giftable items that you would like to drop off for the New and Like New sale, we will start receiving them on October 30 from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. The deadline will be Thursday, November 3 at 12:00 pm to allow us time to sort and tag items. Please do not send any electronics, used toys, stuffed animals. All items should be clean and within the Christmas theme of decor, decorations and gifts for the holiday.

Baked goods may be dropped off at any time up until 9:00 am on November 5th. If you are baking cookies, please put them in Ziploc bags of 1/2 dozen or a dozen. Also, please indicate if they contain nuts.

Most importantly, please join us on November 5 from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm for our Holly Fair! In addition to shopping for homemade goodies, handcrafted gifts and decorations, New and Like New gifts, and participating in our Basket Social, you can enjoy a cup of coffee, mulled cider or hot cocoa and take home some delicious broccoli cheddar soup or chili! Don't miss it!!

LBS NEWS

(Ladies Benevolent Society)

LBS met on October 18, 2023, in Fellowship Hall. We discussed and finalized the plans for our Holly Fair which is on November 4, 2023, from 10 to 2 p.m.

- We are looking for young, strong, energetic volunteers to help us with clean up and take down on Sunday, November 5 after church! It involves putting tables away, packing things into storage containers, and bringing things down to the basement for storage.
- We are looking for any help in making craft items, putting together themed baskets, baking breads, cakes, cookies, candies, etc.
- Please plan on attending and getting a lot of your holiday shopping done in one stop.

Following our business meeting, Marilyn Rath shared a presentation from her time of service as a nurse during the Vietnam war. This was a very touching and informative presentation that touched us all.

Our programs for the remainder of the year are posted on a bulletin board in Fellowship Hall and here is a quick summary:

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| ❖ November 15 | Sweden | Kerstin Forrester |
| ❖ December 13 | Christmas Party | ALL are welcome |
| ❖ March 20 | Roseland Park | Pam Brown |
| ❖ April 17 | Alaska | Christine & Glen Lessig |
| ❖ May 15 | Visionary Women | Ellen Duzak |
- Celebrating Gardening

Please come and join us at our next meeting on November 15 at 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy our program, refreshments, and fellowship. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Please Sign-up for Coffee Hour!

We are looking for people to host coffee hour during November and December. Please sign up in Fellowship Hall if you would like to provide simple snacks and milk/creamers for coffee to encourage conversation and fellowship. Coffee and juice are provided, and some snacks are available. Thank you!



Coffee Fellowship



We welcomed five new members to our congregation on Sunday, October 22.

Barbara Fitzgibbons has live in Woodstock since 1999. She has one son, Garrett, who lives in California. Her 95-year-old mother live in Georgia. Barbara is retired and enjoys knitting and gardening.

Nancy and Peter Green have been married for 49 years and have three daughters and five grandchildren. Nancy grew up in a Christian family and attended a Christian College where one was free to ask hard questions. They moved to Woodstock in 1980 and now live “up the hill” on Prospect Street with both daughters’ families next door – blessed with 5 young grandchildren within 150 feet. The need to be in a Christian community was answered here. Peter is a retired educator (counselor and administrator) at Woodstock Academy for 37 years. He is enjoying his low-key retirement life: family; the EWCC community; and the East Woodstock neighborhood “vibe”. He enjoys travel and puttering around with a number of property maintenance projects – mostly involving painting and carpentry. He is looking forward to participating more fully in the “life of the EWCC church” including volunteer opportunities that serve the church and broader community.

Emily Hayden has been married to husband Harley for 20 years. They have 2 children: Oliver (12) and Willa (9) both of whom attend Woodstock public schools. She serves on the Board of Education and works for EastConn Head Start as an instructional coach. Emily is also Nancy and Peter’s daughter.

Megan Lurvey was born and raised in Woodstock (another daughter of Nancy & Peter!), interrupted by a 17-year stint of living in and around Boston. She is married to Andrew Lurvey and they have three sons: Fitz (6), Otis (4) and Axel (2). Megan is a nurse manager of the pediatric hematology/oncology unit at Boston Children’s Hospital. Her interests include health equity and social justice. Her favorite hymn/spiritual is “Go Tell It on the Mountain”.



The men of the church have been enjoying a Breakfast fellowship once a month. Join us for good food and conversation. Breakfast starts at 8:00 am. The next date will be November 19.



Advent Devotional: *Practicing Wonder*

The season of Advent begins on December 3rd. You are invited to pick up a copy of the Advent devotional "Practicing Wonder" so that you can take some time for reflection during this special season.

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.? Just email Heidi at ewccsec@yahoo.com or call the church office at 928-7449.

Abby Converse, Jacqueline Dearborn, Phoebe Griffin, and Freya Robbie were all inducted into the National Honor Society at Woodstock Academy. Congratulations on your hard work and accomplishments!

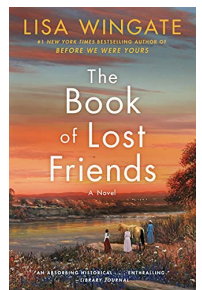
Connor Bond and Erin Watson were married on October 20th. May God bless them with many happy years together!

Memorial

A memorial service for Devens Arnett, father of Danielle Arnett-Keller, was held on October 21st. We give thanks for his completed life and the blessing that he was to so many people; we ask for God's strength and comfort to be with his family and friends.

Book Discussion Group

Our book group continues so you'll have the chance to meet and discuss a wide variety of books. The title for November is The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate: **Louisiana, 1875:** In the tumultuous era of Reconstruction, three young women set off as unwilling companions on a perilous quest: Hannie, a freed slave; Lavinia, the pampered heir to a now destitute plantation; and Juneau Jane, Lavinia's Creole half sister. Each carries private wounds and powerful secrets as they head for Texas, following roads rife with vigilantes and soldiers still fighting a war lost a decade before. For Lavinia and Juneau Jane, the journey is one of stolen inheritance and financial desperation, but for Hannie, torn from her mother and siblings before slavery's end, the pilgrimage west reignites an agonizing question: Could her long-lost family still be out there? Beyond the swamps lie the limitless frontiers of Texas and, improbably, hope.



Louisiana, 1987: For first-year teacher Benedetta Silva, a subsidized job at a poor rural school seems like the ticket to canceling her hefty student debt - until she lands in a tiny, out-of-step Mississippi River town. Augustine, Louisiana, is suspicious of new ideas and new people, and Benny can scarcely comprehend the lives of her poverty-stricken students. But amid the gnarled live oaks and run-down plantation homes lie the century-old history of three young women, a long-ago journey, and a hidden book that could change everything.

Please watch the EWCC Weekly Reminder for future book titles. We will meet at 7:00 pm on these evenings in the Chapel: November 27, December: No Meeting, January 29

Contact Anne Sorensen for more information: 860-428-2198

Stewardship Letter

Below is a copy of the Stewardship letter which was mailed out at the end of October. If you did not receive one and would like to make a pledge, please contact John Davis at johnmdavis46@earthlink.net.

“No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in us...” 1 John 4: 12

Dear Friends,

In these days of global war and unrest, it would be easy to ask – where is God in all of this? We are told that no one has ever seen God, but that our actions and our love can make God’s presence known. Our church is called to make God visible to a world that is aching to be reminded that we are not alone.

The work of the church is to live out God’s love.

The work of the church is to make God’s presence known in the world.

How does our church do that?

The East Woodstock Congregational Church strives every day to make God’s love and hope tangible and apparent. We do that through our service to others –

- Our card ministry sends out over 25 cards each month to those who are homebound, sick, or weary as well as to those celebrating special occasions
- Our freezer meal program provides a welcome meal to anyone who is sick or simply needs some support during a challenging time.
- Our transportation team offers rides to doctor’s appointments and nursing homes to anyone who is unable to drive themselves.
- Our weekly coffee hour offers the opportunity to enjoy fellowship, conversations, and connections in an often isolated world.
- Our prayer shawl ministry literally wraps people in the warmth of a soft, beautiful shawl that reminds us of God’s enveloping love.

The work of our church is important. The ministry of our church makes a difference. We are able to continue to make God’s love visible because of our pledges, gifts, and donations.

Each one of us is asked to do our part to support this powerful ministry. Let us give thanks to God by financially supporting the work of our church.

November 12th is Pledge Sunday. Please consider your gift to our church carefully and return your pledge card by mail or in person.

Yours in Christ,

Beth Baron, Jaime Boisvert, Michele Connolly, Dee Harless and Jessica Reed, Stewardship Committee and John Davis, Collector

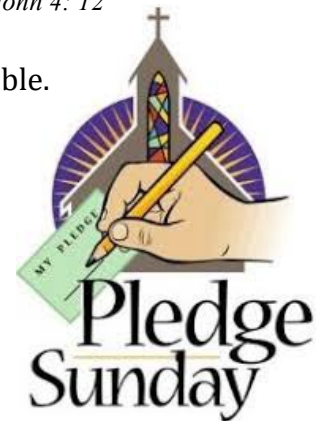
Pledge Sunday = November 12th

"No one has ever seen God, but if we love one another, God lives in us..." 1 John 4: 12

Our pledges and our gifts make the ministry and the outreach of our church possible. We can give thanks to God through our gifts.

There are many ways to give to the church:

- You will receive a pledge card in the mail which you can mail back to EWCC, PO Box 156, East Woodstock, CT 06244, drop off at the church office, or place in the offering plate by one of the doors.
- You can go to our website and click on "donate." There you will find:
 - o An Electronic Funds Transfer form to print out and return to the church. Any questions? Please contact John Davis at johnmdavis46@earthlink.net
 - o Instructions on how to text a contribution
 - o Ways to use the app **Give+** for donations
 - o A form to fill out and donate right away!



However we choose to give, together we are celebrating God's Spirit working in and through our congregation as we share the Good News of God's love, hope, and compassion.



Outreach Committee News



DVS - Domestic Violence Shelter - Needs new or gently used towels.

Prayer Shawls: Thank you to Charlotte Davis for the yarn that is available in the Chapel for those who would like to knit or crochet shawls.



Turkeys: Too early to talk about Turkeys?? Not with Outreach!

We're gearing up for our busiest part of the year starting with Thanksgiving Baskets in November. If you see a sale on turkeys and would like to store them in our Outreach Chest Freezer, we can get a jump on the 30 baskets we'll likely be putting together for Covenant-to-Care and local families in need!

Caring Continues: We are collecting pasta sauce in plastic containers for the 'Caring Continues Ministry' which provides weekly bags of food to Woodstock Families through the public schools. Donations can be left on the Outreach table in Fellowship Hall.



Freezer Meals: Cooking day will be Wednesday, Nov. 8 at 9 a.m. as the freezer is empty. If you like to cook and have some extra food for a casserole, we have aluminum pans with labels that you could package for our freezer. Please let Paster Sue know if you know of someone who may benefit from the comfort and support of a freezer meal.



Community Kitchen: EWCC prepared 87 meals on Monday, Oct. 2, thanks to Kerstin Forrester, Barbara Hackett, and the crew!

WAIM - Windham Area Interfaith Ministry - Mission: *Uplifting and uniting our community by providing caring services and resources to meet our neighbors' needs with dignity and respect.* The Confirmation youth will be volunteering at the **workday on Saturday, Oct. 28 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.** All members of the congregation are welcome to volunteer. If interested, please contact Andy Krofina andykrofina@gmail.com

First Friday Food Fair - Food Distribution Site



For anyone who could benefit from additional food support.

Friday, Nov 3 9 am to 10 am

We continue to appreciate and collect non-perishable food items.

Especially Thanksgiving foods!

Collection bins are on the ramp to Fellowship Hall or on the Outreach table.

The Giving Tree

Bring joy during the holidays by giving...

Look for the 'The Giving Tree' table in Fellowship Hall after service on Dec 3.

You need to sign up when taking a tag.

Providing gifts to:

- Local families
- Covenant-to-Care
(DCF Social Workers provide to children in Foster Care in our local NE CT)
- Local Shelters in NE CT



Please bring gifts unwrapped in a gift bag by Sunday, **December 17.**

Your participation in our Christmas Gift Drive is an opportunity for you to personally, and positively influence the lives of people in challenging situations in our community. Thank you!

For more information please contact Pam Brown pbbrown208@charter.net



CWS - Church World Services Blankets/Cards \$10

Purchase a blanket and honor a loved one with a card to acknowledge that a compassionate gift has been given in their honor in support of CWS.

Cards will be available Dec 3 & 10 after church service.

Church World Service distributes blankets around the world. These blankets provide warmth and comfort and reach families fleeing their homes, and recovering from disasters, and more.



November 12th is JEANS SUNDAY!

**Be a part of this fun & rewarding
ONCE-A-YEAR event after worship!**

Join friends, family,
and your Church committee members
for the annual upkeep of our sacred spaces
and church buildings & grounds.

Society members are coordinating
indoor & outdoor quick and easy
tasks for everyone of all ages

**ALL are tasks that don't take long
but have a lasting effect on the Church.**
(and everything smells so good afterwards!)

**Join us for a light volunteer lunch
after our tasks are complete,**
and enjoy a great sense of accomplishment & pride!

Society members will provide cleaning supplies.
Please wear your work clothes to worship,
and bring your own favorite step ladder,
rake, or leaf blower.

**Show your pride as part of
our Church family!**

Sign up in Fellowship Hall or contact Judith Wong at
judithmillerwong@gmail.com

Hope to see you there!

Poinsettias in the Sanctuary

Would you like to have a poinsettia in the sanctuary for Christmas?

Please fill out this form completely and **return as soon as possible.**

Deadline is December 10th.

Make your checks payable to EWCC and mail to EWCC, PO Box 156, East Woodstock, CT 06244 or leave it in the church office. Forgot your checkbook? Text your payment to 860-357-6119.

Example: \$17 Poinsettias

One size is available - \$17.00 ea.

How many? _____ Total enclosed \$ _____ Paid by Text _____

Given by: _____

To Honor: _____

In Memory of: _____

Would you like to give your plant to a shut-in?

YES _____ NO _____





Art and Craft Show



Mark your calendar...

Saturday, December 2nd 10 am - 2 pm

More than 30 vendors will be setting up in Fellowship Hall with a variety of items to sell. 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.



A QUIET Christmas

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST AT 7:00 P.M.

We will gather in our sanctuary to mark the season
with music, readings, and prayer.

This quiet service is meant especially for those who
are grieving and/or those who find the holidays
challenging because of life circumstances. If you are
feeling neither “merry” or “bright” but
still wish to hear the hope of Christ’s birth, this time
of worship is for you.
Everyone is welcome.



From the Children's Chapel

Hello EWCC Family!

The programming for our youngest family members is going well. We often have up to 15 students attending, ranging from age 2 to age 13.

We are offering a nursery this year, which is really appreciated by both the parents and the pre-school kiddos themselves!

November 5th there will be some special moments in worship, reflecting how the students have been learning about prayer and especially about the Lord's prayer.

We will continue our tradition of making Thanksgiving baskets on November 19th. If you have a basket that you would like to donate, please reach out to Jessica WB; there are no promises that it will be returned to you.

Looking ahead, the Christmas pageant will take place on December 17th this year. It should be especially lovely because it will feature our bell choir as well as our children.

Looking far ahead, there will be a clothing drive in January. Men's winter clothes will be our primary focus. There will be reminders as we get closer to the date.

From the current lesson plans, here is a reminder – God is always listening, no matter how or when or why we pray. Amen.

Jessica Weaver Boose



Children's Page
What are you thankful for?



November 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 Study Group 10:00 – 4:00 Basket Wrapping 7:30 AI-anon	2 10:00 – 4:00 Basket Wrapping 7:00 pm Bells	3 9 am – 11 pm First Friday Food Fair 10:00 – 4:00 Basket Wrapping	4 10 am –2 pm HOLLY FAIR
5 10:00 Worship	6 6:00 pm Outreach 7:00 pm Deacons	7 7:00 pm Choir	8 7:00 pm Bells 7:30 AI-anon	9	10 9:30 am MOMs	11
12 Jeans Sunday Pledge Sunday 10:00 Worship	13 7:00 pm Society	14 7:00 pm Council 7:00 pm Choir	15 1:30 pm LBS 7:00 pm Bells 7:30 AI-anon	16	17 Trumpet Deadline!	18
19 Thanksgiving Sunday New Members 10:00 Worship	20 7:00 pm Sanctuary Refurbishment	21 7:00 pm Choir	22 7:00 pm Bells 7:30 AI-anon	23 Happy Thanksgiving!	24	25
26 10:00 Worship	27 7:00 pm Book Discussion	28 7:00 pm Choir	29	30		

Landen Morin	Nov 17
Hunter Squires	Nov 23
Owen Dumas	Nov 24
Amani Kamau	Nov 30



PRAYER PAGE

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

Thanksgiving Prayers

**O God, when I have food,
help me to remember the hungry;**
When I have work,
help me to remember the jobless;
When I have a home,
help me to remember those who have no home at all;
When I am without pain,
help me to remember those who suffer,
And remembering,
help me to destroy my complacency;
bestir my compassion,
and be concerned enough to help;
By word and deed,
those who cry out for what we take for granted.
Amen.

~ Samuel F. Pugh

“If the only prayer you ever say in
your entire life is thank you, it will be
enough.”

~ Meister Eckhart



Whichever way we turn, O God, there is Your face
in the light of the moon and patterns of stars,
in sacred mountain rifts and ancient groves,
in mighty seas and creatures of the deep.

Whichever way we turn, O God, there is Your face
in the light of eyes we love,
in the salt of tears we have tasted,
in weathered countenances east and west,
in the soft skin glow of the child everywhere.

Whichever way we turn, O God, there is Your face,
there is your face,
among us.

~John Philip Newell