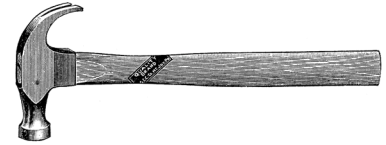


The Trumpet LATE SEPTEMBER 2025
 A publication of the East Woodstock Congregational Church, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



**SNEEK PEEK: SUMMER EFFORTS
BRING NEW SPARKLE TO
PARSONAGE KITCHEN!**

Exciting news, Thanks to many volunteers and the work of several contractors, the Parsonage Kitchen remodel project is on schedule, nearly complete! and on budget. Demolition, new wall installation, electrical circuits upgraded, and a new ceiling installation have been completed. Ceiling and wall painting, new laminate floor, cabinets, quartz counters, window, and appliances were just recently finished.

The Demo crew included Seth Spalding (along with his trailer), Rick Place, Andy Hescheles, Peter Green, and Glen Lessig. Thanks to Steve Integlia (Seth and DeEtta's son-in-law), the new ceiling and walls were installed as a gift to the church. Thank you, Steve!



Remaining to be completed in the coming week:

- Final electrical connection of the dishwasher and microwave
- Water connection of dishwasher and icemaker
- Flooring threshold installed
- Final clean up



No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a gathering of people in a place. We're part of a movement, taking steps and raising funds together to provide meals for those in our own community who need them - and supporting programs

that create greater food security in communities all around the world.

Join us Sunday Sept 28, 2025 at 1:00 PM! Fort Hill Farms, Thompson.

For more information: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/event/danielsonct>

It is common to hear people say that they attend a church that meets their needs. In our American consumer society, however, we very often don't know what we need. That's why advertising is a multibillion-dollar business. Many Americans need to be told what they need. This leads us to choose what we want. When it comes to religion, for many that means that they choose a faith that requires very little of them. What they really need, however, is a faith that requires commitment, sacrifice, and the occasional denial of their desires. But that's the rare American today, especially in secular New England. People shop for churches that will meet their desires when they ought to be looking for a church that will shape their desires.

What about us at the East Woodstock Congregational Church? How many look to the church to shape who they are as followers of Jesus Christ? By what metric can we determine this? By church attendance? By pledging? By attendance at Bible Study? By participation in the ministries and missions of the church? According to those criteria, there would seem to be quite a few among us who don't want their desires shaped by the Christian faith. They want to continue to live in their own self-indulgent way. Christ is fine to believe in for going to heaven, but he better not interfere with my life here and now! How can Jesus compete with iPhones, Facebook, and Netflix? Perhaps those who were raised in the church and left might desire to return at some time, like when they

have children, but for how long will they stay? When their children are confirmed or are too old for Sunday School? How can the church do the hard work of shaping desires when those who are members of the church no longer want to be involved?

Some say that the church needs to change with the times. There's some truth to that. But what kind of change are we talking about? Should we start preaching a message that will pander to people's greedy instincts, like the Prosperity Gospel, which promises financial blessing to those who believe in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior? Not on my watch! This is quite contrary to the life and teachings of Jesus himself.

In addition to engaging in the usual seasonal activities, why don't we take some time to focus on our desires? Are they in line with the Christian faith that we profess? Or are they mostly motivated by selfish wants? What's shaping these desires? Our religious beliefs? Our secular culture? Our pursuit of pleasure?

The church can help in the cultivation of God-given desires through worship, Bible study, prayer, and engaging in mission. Engaging in those practices helps us to understand the psalmist's insight who wrote, "Take delight in the Lord, and God will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalm 37:4).

The psalmist is not thinking about giving you the dream house you've always desired. He's thinking about giving you new desires, those that will edify your life by doing good for others, that can lead you to a deeper love and richer satisfaction. Our basic desires--for food, shelter, means of livelihood--certainly need to be met. But we also have spiritual desires that need to be recognized if we are to be contented human beings. We must find ways to cultivate these spiritual desires. This is an area where the church excels.

Desires get shaped and changed when exposed to good or bad influences. The church is in the business of conforming desires to those that reflect the values of God's kingdom, the most important values around. But the church can't do its job if people don't participate in its life. The church has shaped the desires of people for the good for 2000 years. Its work isn't done yet. Let the church shape you into the person God meant for you to become.

Pastor Gary

FILM SERIES HAS RETURNED ON SECOND SUNDAYS!

10/12: *Places in the Heart*

11/9: *What's Cooking?*

Please let Pastor Gary know if you have suggestions for thought-provoking films.



Continuing to pray for ...

- Ken Marvin
- Joel Morse
- Faith Armstrong
- Sally May
- Lisa Gould
- Marina Tuffy
- The Children and Family of Amanda (Crowley) & Jerry Zolobkowski

God hears our prayers and surrounds those we pray for with comfort, strength, and compassion in difficult times.

We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves, shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.

We sense its passing in rain that dampens, winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.

CREATOR GOD, who brings forth both green shoot and hoar frost, sunrise and sunset, we bring our thanks for seeds that have grown, harvests gathered, storehouses filled, mouths fed.

And, as your good earth rests through winter's cold embrace, we look forward to its re-awakening when kissed by Spring's first touch.

Author Unknown

"When you are harvesting in your field and you overlook a sheaf, do not go back to get it. Leave it for the foreigner, the fatherless and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands"

Deuteronomy 24:19

GOD OUR PROVIDER:

We praise you when the harvest is plenty. We thank you for the abundance and overflow of goodness and blessings you give us. How humbled we are at your favor in our lives. As we find ourselves in a season of richness, may you cause our hearts to remember others. As your word instructs us, guide us to be helpers to those in need, givers to those who have less, and generous with our time, talents, and resources.

We ask to be cheerful givers and to be representatives of your love in this world. AMEN.



"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." *Galatians 6:9*

GOOD AND GRACIOUS GOD,

You know what each of us is going through. You know our hardships, you know what we're waiting for, you know what we are asking, and you know the good we do in our best efforts to be obedient and righteous. Help us not to become weary doing good, help us not to give up, so that we will reap the promised harvest for pursuing righteousness. We are so grateful that by your might all things are possible. Help us lead lives that are pure and holy, pleasing in your sight. We thank you for strength and wisdom each day to keep moving forward in hope and trust. This time of year teaches us that we will reap the harvest of our good efforts because you fulfill all your promises. Thank you, God, for being just and faithful.

worship & prayer

The following are the scriptures for the next few weeks. You are invited to read them as part of your daily devotions and as preparation for worship. For daily devotions, please go to: sneucc.org/lectionary

September 21

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 8:18—9:1,
Psalm 79:1-9, 1 Timothy 2:1-7,
Luke 16:1-13

September 28

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15,
Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16; 1
Timothy 6:6-19, Luke 16:19-31

October 4

Lamentations 3:19-26
Lamentations 1:7-15,
Matthew 20:29-34

October 5

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
Lamentations 1:1-6,
Lamentations 3:19-26 or
Psalm 137, 2 Timothy 1:1-14,
Luke 17:5-10

October 12

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7,
Psalm 66:1-12,
2 Timothy 2:8-15,
Luke 17:11-19

Congratulations!

Out in the world after graduating from Harvard Ellis Technical School this past June is Seamus Morse. Best of luck on your endeavors!

Thank You!

There are so many doing so much all the time, it can be hard to keep track. Besides the myriad of helpers who participated and supported the Jamboree and Parsonage kitchen renovation, we are grateful to:

- Sarah Jo Burke
- Rick LaMarre
- Leslie Sweetnam

for providing thoughtful and meaningful choices to our music reflections throughout the summer.

Also to the garden mavens, Christine and Glen Lessig whose tender care makes our gardens bloom and cheer in so many ways...

...to the almost invisible Peter Green who seems to be everywhere at once, spackling, painting, and rejuvenating our worship and fellowship spaces...

...and to Laurie Edwards who has diligently scrubbed, organized, and labeled every surface of the kitchen for pleasant and effortless use.



Joyce White, mother of Windsor and John White, traveler, gardener, consummate baker. Independent and faithful.

Josh Harris, Navy Veteran during 'Desert Storm'. Secret artist, music was his passion. A deep soul who strived to make others laugh and feel loved.

May their memory be a blessing.

committee doings

LADIES BENEVOLENT SOCIETY

We had July and August off to enjoy the summer and were back together on Wednesday, September 17th for our annual potluck luncheon and kick off for the year. Kerstin opened the meeting with a short grace before we enjoyed a pot luck feast. Many people outdid themselves sharing salads, hot dishes, snacks and desserts. Thank you to all who contributed to the pot luck luncheon for the new LBS year.

Meetings will continue to be held every third Wednesday of the month at 1:30pm. If there are time changes such as for luncheons, it will be announced ahead of time. There are no meetings held in January, February, or the summer months July and August.

The Annual Holly Fair will be held on November 8 from 10AM-2PM. Please consider making up a basket for the basket social. Kerstin Forrester has empty baskets for those who need them. Baked goods will be sold and the craft booth will welcome donations of knitting, sewing, other handmade crafts.

Barbara Fitzgibbons

JEWELRY WANTED FOR HOLLY FAIR

The jewelry room has become very popular. It's time to go through your jewelry; imagine how fabulous your unused items would look on someone else. And remember - your contributions directly benefit the church and its mission. Please provide your donations to Marilyn Rath, Carrie Walker or Donna Baldyga. They will be much appreciated by our Holly Fair shoppers! ***Also, please note that we will not be accepting any Christmas items until after Christmas as we are fully stocked for this year's Holly Fair.*

Marilyn Rath

SOCIETY: LOANING OF CHURCH EQUIPMENT

Change is coming; chairs and other equipment are no longer available to be borrowed from the church. *What!*

Our church, in the past, allowed members to borrow various items, such as tables, chairs, coffee pots, and even plates.

As you may know, when we purchased the new plastic tables, we stopped loaning tables. Several years ago the LBS generously donated the funds to purchase much-needed new padded chairs and carts. The carts are designed to allow them to be rolled into the Fellowship Hall for easy unloading and loading. Unfortunately, due to the number of old metal chairs that we were storing for the Jamboree, our storage room was so tight that the carts were not operable, and accessing chairs was difficult.

The Society committee decided to store the extra chairs for the Jamboree in the storage room loft, thereby freeing up the lower storage space to allow proper access to our carts and new padded chairs. Due to the inaccessibility of older chairs, the Society Committee agreed to implement a new policy that chairs were not to be loaned out, and we decided to make it straightforward - *no EWCC equipment is available to be loaned.*

We do appreciate that this is a change and may be an inconvenience. However, we feel this allows us to access our tables and chairs in our limited storage space most effectively for all of the programs in Fellowship Hall.

Please feel free to reach out to any Society member with concerns or questions, society@eastwoodsockchurch.org.

Glen Lessig for the Society Committee



The Jamboree's Attic Treasures was a grand success once again, and it's all thanks to you! My deepest gratitude goes to everyone who donated and supported this year's event, and especially to our phenomenal Attic Treasures team:

Arabella, Barbara H, Cris, David, Donna, Jared, Karen M, Kerstin, Lucy, Mary, Melanie, Nancy, Reanne, Sandee, Val, and many others who volunteered for Attic Treasures.

Working side by side with all of you was truly an extraordinary experience. Your generous enthusiasm, expertise, humor, hard work, and especially your friendship, made this year's Attic Treasures sale unforgettable. What an incredible team!

Every year, our Attic Treasures workers bring fresh ideas and meaningful changes to further our mission and enhance the sale. This year was no exception: through our Outreach Committee, we offered select items to WAIM and homeless shelters, hoping to expand these partnerships. We also enjoyed two solid weeks of donations (and items "appeared" throughout the year!), and offered convenient evening drop-off times. We even leveraged the Putnam Antiques Marketplace for pricing feedback and continue to sell larger unsold items on Facebook Marketplace.

We all know the deep benefits of volunteering at Church: sharing our time, resources, and diverse talents to further our mission, nurturing old friendships, forging new ones, and experiencing that wonderful inner reward that comes from working together for "what matters." As we celebrate our Church's oldest and largest fundraiser and Independence Day, I am especially honored to share this journey with you.

A special shout-out to the Spalding family for their invaluable help setting up and taking down our heavy tables. To Karen McFarlin for expanding our reach by spearheading our social media promotions and Facebook Marketplace sales. To Dianna Rebello and the team from Southbridge's Center of Hope for picking up many of our unsold items, supporting another great cause. And to Mark Billings and Windsor White for their tireless efforts in carting off and delivering the remaining unsold items to the Salvation Army.

I sincerely hope you had as much fun as I did leading up to and during the Jamboree – making new friends, reconnecting with others, and simply taking in the moment as we celebrated the 4th. It's a very special experience, and I'm honored to share it with you. (And remember, it's not too early to start gathering your treasures for next year!)

I eagerly look forward to partnering with you again for our 70th Jamboree in 2026!

*My sincere thanks,
Judith Wong
Chair, Attic Treasures*

OUTREACH

School is now back in session. The Caring Continues program has resumed, making sure families of Woodstock School children receive the food assistance they may need. Spaghetti Sauce, Peanut Butter and Jelly are the items we're once again collecting through September. Donations may be left in the bin on the ramp into Fellowship Hall or on the Outreach table. *Your generosity is always appreciated!*

Lynn Hescheles

YANG STYLE TAI CHI AT EAST WOODSTOCK CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Tai Chi is a traditional Chinese martial art and mind-body practice characterized by slow, deliberate movements, rhythmic breathing, and mindfulness to promote physical health, mental relaxation, and spiritual well-being.

Yang Style features slow, graceful movements with smooth transitions between postures, making it accessible to practitioners of all ages and fitness levels. Yang Style emphasizes relaxation, balance, and internal energy cultivation. This style promotes flexibility and joint health.

Our 60 minute class starts with warm up exercises and Chi Gong breathing patterns. The balance of the class focuses on group stepping exercises and individual instruction learning postures in sequence. People learn at different speeds and that's ok. This is a no pressure, judgment free class.

Come learn postures like Brush Knee, White Crane Spreads it Wings and Grasp Sparrow's Tail Right, to name a few! Relatively flat footwear to improve balance is preferable.

Our class continues each Monday at 11AM in Fellowship Hall. I look forward to seeing you then!

Lucy Bousquet

HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT FAIR MARKS 10TH YEAR!

This special event will be held on Saturday, December 6th from 10AM-3PM here at EWCC. Many area artists and craftfolk will have their work on display. For more information or an application to participate, please contact coordinator, Karen McFarlin via email: kmcf3470@gmail.com. Applications are also available in the church office.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Monday, September 29th, at 7:00 pm. Our book selection is *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* by Anna Johnston. Mary ordered some copies for us to borrow at the May Memorial Library.

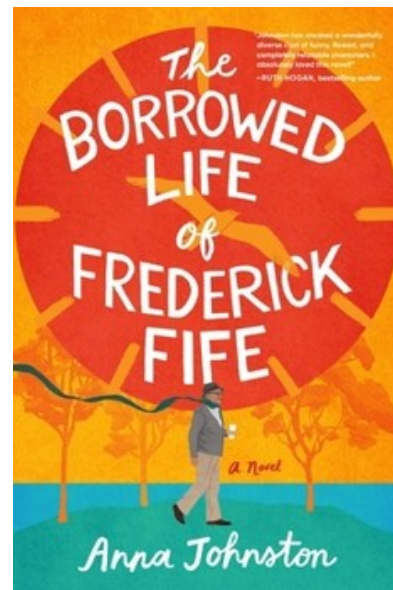
FROM AMAZON:

"Frederick Fife was born with an extra helping of kindness in his heart. If he borrowed your car, he'd return it washed with a full tank of gas. The problem is, at age eighty-two, there's nobody left in Fred's life to borrow from, and he's broke and on the brink of eviction. But Fred's luck changes when he's mistaken for Bernard Greer, a missing resident at the local nursing home, and takes his place. Now Fred has warm meals in his belly and a roof over his head—as long as his look-alike Bernard never turns up.

Denise Simms is stuck breathing the same disappointing air again and again. A middle-aged mom and caregiver at Bernard's facility, her crumbling marriage and daughter's health concerns are suffocating her joy for life. Wounded by her two-faced husband, she vows never to let a man deceive her again.

As Fred walks in Bernard's shoes, he leaves a trail of kindness behind him, fueling Denise's suspicions about his true identity. When unexpected truths are revealed, Fred and Denise rediscover their sense of purpose and learn how to return a broken life to mint condition.

Bittersweet and remarkably perceptive, *The Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife* is a hilarious, feel-good, clever novel about grief, forgiveness, redemption, and finding family.



On **Saturday, October 4th**, EWCC and First Congregational Church, Woodstock will hold a "Blessing of the Animals" service at the East Woodstock Common at 220 Woodstock Road. All well-behaved animal companions are welcome (humans, too). If you cannot bring your companion, a photo is welcome and can be blessed as well. **The service will begin at 10AM** and will include some celebratory animal chorales. Hope to see you there!

THE BEST KIND OF OLD-FASHIONED SUMMER FUN!

Where in the world can you find a parade that goes around the block three times? Antique tractors, Uncle Sam on stilts, an old-fashioned cakewalk, and the best summer food anywhere? At our Jamboree of course!

2025 JAMBOREE WRAP UP

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we say thank you to everyone who made this year's Jamboree a success by volunteering, baking, donating items, and attending the event. We hope that all of you enjoyed the experience while connecting with old friends and making new ones. We had a spectacular day with one of our largest crowds in the 69-year history of the Jamboree. The positive, patriotic energy felt throughout the day showed all our guests what it truly means to be a part of the East Woodstock Congregational Church. We're sure those women who hosted the first Jamboree would be so pleased to see that the event continues to offer the community a day filled with old-fashioned patriotism and kindheartedness to all.

Thank you again for generously sharing your time and talent. Your efforts contributed toward a very successful fundraising event that supports our church programs locally and globally. While we are still tallying the final numbers, we are confident that we met the budget goal of \$15,000. God Bless America!

DeEtta Spalding and Lynn Looby, Co-Chairs



Learning in faith



Our newest members who joined our Congregation this past June: Henry Griffin, Haven Magnum, Gabby Santos, Adian Vuillemot-Newell, and Gigi Young. Bibles were also awarded to 3rd and 5th graders during the service that rounded out our 24/25 church school year.



FROM THE CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

Communion is about more than just bread and juice. It is about honoring the words and lessons of Jesus. Our students are learning not only about the last time Jesus ate with his disciples but also about the other times he ate with people who had been unwelcome because they were women, thieves, from a different town, etc. They are learning how Jesus served others and how Christians are expected to do the same. And they get to have some fun as they learn.

Nursery is available, for more information, Jessica Weaver Boose
jessalou@mac.com

WORSHIP TEAM DISCUSSION

This past spring, The Reverends Kevin Downer (1st Church, Woodstock, UCC) and Pamela Briddle (Putnam Congregational UCC) held a workshop on worship design that augments and enriches worship space.

What is worship design? Worship design recognizes worship is more meaningful when it is "experienced" through all of the senses, and more impactful when the congregation is engaged and participatory rather than passive 'observers'. It endeavors to engage the senses and allows for connections and access to the "message" in multiple ways. The Worship Team is guided by being grounded in scripture, following a theme that aligns with the message and will resonate with the congregation, and creates a meaningful visual experience. **Join us for discussion on September 28th after the service!**

✝

NORTH GATE CHRISTIAN COFFEEHOUSE

at South Woodstock Baptist Church

FREE evening of Christian music, refreshments, and friends

✝

OCTOBER 4, 2025

6:30PM

All are invited to attend!

Performer reservations required
email swbeecher@gmail.com

southwoodstockbaptist.org
23 Roseland Park Road, Woodstock, CT

I PRAISE YOU BECAUSE
I AM FEARFULLY AND
WONDERFULLY MADE:
YOUR WORKS ARE
WONDERFUL.
I KNOW THAT
FULL WELL
Psalm 139:14





White Christian Nationalism is terrorizing my friends and harming the people I love. It's also the greatest threat to our diverse, pluralistic, and secular democracy.

Yet most people don't understand what it is—or why it's happening—which leaves them powerless to stop it.

White Christian Nationalism is destroying lives.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu once said, "There comes a point where we need to stop just pulling people out of the river. We need to go upstream and find out why they're falling in." White Christian Nationalism is why. It's the driving force behind ICE detentions, attacks on LGBTQ+ rights, escalating racism, xenophobia, and the erosion of reproductive and constitutional rights. It's not random—it's a coordinated political ideology.

Wrapped in religious language and patriotic symbols, it masquerades as Christianity and love of country. But its goal is to impose a rigid, fundamentalist worldview on all of us—defining only two genders, elevating men over women, limiting marriage to heterosexual couples, and blaming LGBTQ+ people and single mothers for society's ills.

A friend of mine—an Indian American U.S. citizen—was pulled over for a supposed taillight issue. The officer asked for "papers," questioned where her parents were born, and let her go only after repeated challenges. The taillight? Working fine. This is "driving while brown."

James Baldwin reminds us: "Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."

We must face this. When even the Southern Baptists, United Church of Christ, and Roman Catholic Church are warning about the dangers of White Christian Nationalism, we should pay attention. Silence is complicity—and now is the time to lift up progressive Christianity.

That's why my church is hosting a symposium this Indigenous Peoples' Day weekend (Oct 10–12) to learn, connect, and mobilize against this threat. National speakers will join us to help build a path forward.

I'm not doing this for me. I'm doing this for the people I love—and for everyone who deserves better.

The Reverend Corey Sanderson,
Second Church, UCC, Newton, MA

KEEP DANCING!

While I was not writing over the summer, I did some reading. The most important and insightful book I read is *Why Religion Went Obsolete: The Demise of Traditional Faith in America*, by Christian Smith. If you feel like nothing you try is working, or it is impossible to get people interested and to pay attention to what you are doing, this book offers an explanation. Traditional religion in America is culturally obsolete. This is more than I can "unpack" in a brief blog, but his case is compelling.

There will always be people that prefer obsolete approaches. There are people that prefer typewriters to word processing applications. There are people that prefer reading real books to reading on e-readers, tablets, or phones. However, the younger you are, the less likely you are to embrace obsolete approaches. This goes a long way to explaining the age distributions in our congregations.

We can wait for our culture to change. It will change, there is no doubt about that, but we cannot assume that it will change in ways that lead to a revival of traditional religion.

This is a time to embrace our faith's counter-cultural roots. The Hebrew prophets repeatedly called the faithful to resist cultural norms of wealth, power, idolatry, and status-seeking and instead live lives marked by justice, humility, and trust in God. Jesus emerged from this tradition with a vision of faithfulness as becoming co-creators with God of a more compassionate, just and peaceful world.

We need to be in a constant dance with our environment to find new ways to make our faith real in our hearts and in the world*. When we stop dancing the world passes us by. Let me be clear: We need to be dancing with people outside of our own walls! Dancing with each other may have some satisfaction, but we are called to more. It isn't enough to invite people to our dance, we need to find them and dance with them where they are! I don't want to strain the metaphor to its breaking point. Yes, we need to gather people in. We also need to send them forth.

Charlie Kuchenbrod
Retired, Connecticut Conference, UCC



September / October

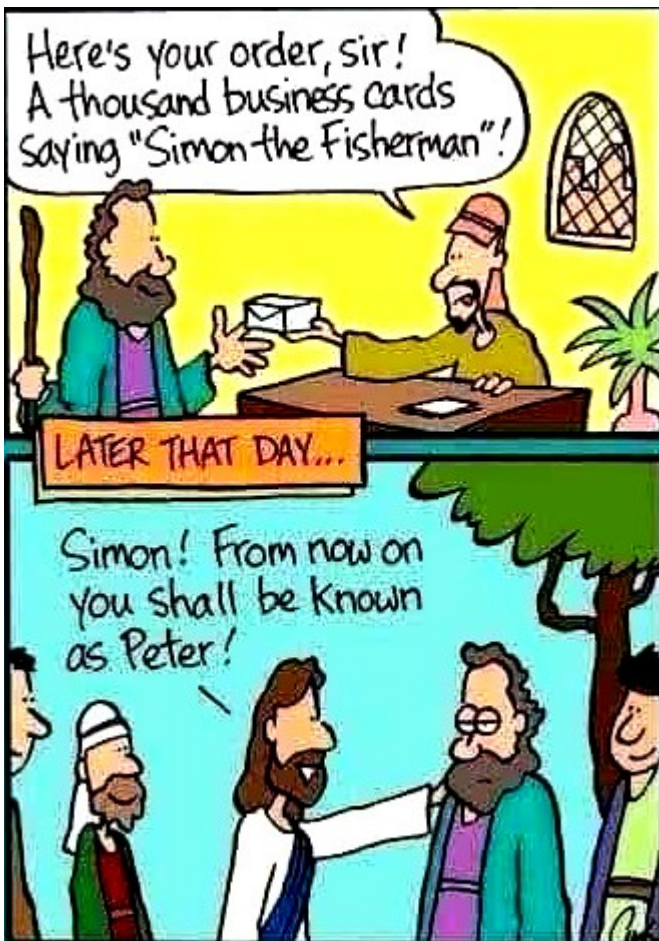
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
21 Men's Breakfast 8AM Worship 10AM Banned Books Discussion	22	23 Choir 7PM	24 Bible Study 10:30AM Al-Anon, 7:30PM	25 Bell Choir 7PM	26	27 Private Event Fellowship Hall
28 Worship 10AM Worship Team Discussion	29 Book Discussion 7PM	30 Choir 7PM Council 7PM	OCTOBER 1 Bible Study 10:30AM Al-Anon, 7:30PM	2 Bell Choir 7PM	3	4 Blessing of the Animals 10AM on the Common
5 Worship World Communion Sunday 10AM	6 Community Kitchen Prep 9AM Outreach, 6PM	7 Choir 7PM	8 Bible Study 10:30AM Al-Anon, 7:30PM	9 Bell Choir 7PM	10	11
12 Worship 10AM Movie Matinee	13	14 Choir 7PM	15 Bible Study 10:30AM LBS 1:30PM Al-Anon, 7:30PM	16 Bell Choir 7PM	17	18
19 Worship 10AM Laity Sunday	20 Society 7PM	21 Choir 7PM	22 Bible Study 10:30AM Al-Anon, 7:30PM	23 Bell Choir 7PM	24	25



East Woodstock Congregational Church

Post Office Box 156

East Woodstock, Connecticut 06244



"That was the best sermon on
giving that I've ever heard!"