

Church News

The Congregational Church of Eastford

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

June 2026

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CARE NOTE:

*"AT THE WORK
OF YOUR HAND,
I SING FOR JOY"*

PSALM 92:4

Rebuild Updates:
<https://cceastford.org/rebuild/>



JUNE			
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2 Samuel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Psalm
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	8-10	<input type="checkbox"/> 72
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	11-13	<input type="checkbox"/> 73
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	14-17	<input type="checkbox"/> 74
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	18-20	<input type="checkbox"/> 75
6	<input type="checkbox"/>	21-24	<input type="checkbox"/> 76
7	<input type="checkbox"/>	Colossians	<input type="checkbox"/> 77
----- Reflection -----			
1 Kings			
8	<input type="checkbox"/>	1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 78:1-39
9	<input type="checkbox"/>	4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 78:40-72
10	<input type="checkbox"/>	7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 79
11	<input type="checkbox"/>	10-12	<input type="checkbox"/> 80
12	<input type="checkbox"/>	13-15	<input type="checkbox"/> 81
13	<input type="checkbox"/>	16-19	<input type="checkbox"/> 82
14	<input type="checkbox"/>	----- Reflection -----	
15	<input type="checkbox"/>	20-22	<input type="checkbox"/> 83
16	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jonah	<input type="checkbox"/> 84
17	<input type="checkbox"/>	Philemon	<input type="checkbox"/> 85
2 Kings			
18	<input type="checkbox"/>	1-4	<input type="checkbox"/> 86
19	<input type="checkbox"/>	5-7	<input type="checkbox"/> 87
20	<input type="checkbox"/>	8-11	<input type="checkbox"/> 88
21	<input type="checkbox"/>	----- Reflection -----	
22	<input type="checkbox"/>	12-14	<input type="checkbox"/> 89:1-18
23	<input type="checkbox"/>	15-18	<input type="checkbox"/> 89:19-52
24	<input type="checkbox"/>	19-21	<input type="checkbox"/> 90
25	<input type="checkbox"/>	22-25	<input type="checkbox"/> 91
Luke			
26	<input type="checkbox"/>	1-3	<input type="checkbox"/> 92
27	<input type="checkbox"/>	4-6	<input type="checkbox"/> 93
28	<input type="checkbox"/>	7-9	<input type="checkbox"/> 94

Congregational Church of Eastford

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Download "The Church App" on your phone or tablet (white background, gray cross). Search for Congregational Church of Eastford or by zip 06242. You can access upcoming events, livestreams, blog, giving, social media, website, and more!

From the Pastor's Pen

Greetings in the Name of Jesus!

What an exciting time for the Congregational Church of Eastford. Our new building will be completed in the next few months, and we will move into our new home. I expect we will receive many guests who come to have a look. The Lord will likely open some new doors. Are we ready?

In a practical sense, we do have some work ahead as we settle on schedules of ministry activities, get settled into new furnishings and storage arrangements, and get patterns of welcoming new folks, worshiping in the new space and fellowship time afterward. It will be a kinetic time. And we have some spiritual work to do. Some particular matters for your prayer:

Ministry to children. Two areas for prayer here. First is for wisdom as regards our weekly schedule. Our recent pattern has required staffing to work with children three separate times each week. This is hard when it comes to recruiting workers. The second topic follows closely - the harvest is ready "but the workers are few." As Jesus said, "... ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers."

Discipleship. It is God's will that all of us – each and every one – are being transformed into the image of Jesus. That means being in relationships where we are encouraged in the Word, prayer, and challenged to do the work of "putting off" the old self and "putting on" the nature of Jesus. Evan is leading a discipleship team laboring to this end. The key ingredient is in each one of us, and that is the heart willingness to be changed by the Lord and to sacrifice both time and self to let that happen. Pride, busy-ness, selfishness about our time, shyness – all these play a role in keeping us stuck in terms of our spiritual growth. I invite you to pray and do some introspection. How have you been changed to be more humble, more loving, more Christlike in recent months? Are you attending a discipleship activity like a small group, a Bible study, a one-on-one accountability partnership? Why not? Ask the Lord for guidance and gumption.

Unity. The road to the new building has been bumpy for some. Sustaining all our ministries following the fire has been stressful (we lost one – Willimantic). I know there have been disagreements, disappointments and perhaps some wounds. Such things are actually normal in the body of Christ – we are all sinners and we are all imperfect. That said, what makes the body of Christ exceptional is our ability – in the Spirit – to be healed of offenses, wounds, sins and grumbles. We love and we give grace and mercy. We forgive and move on. We are NOT the world. It is our clear mandate to never let rifts among us stand. If you have been hurt in any way, I urge you to do the work (see Matthew 18:15-35) to approach the person who hurt you (just the two of you) to seek restoration. Be quick to forgive – even if there's no apology. Refuse the infection of bitterness. We are to be "making every effort to preserve the unity of the spirit and the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4).

Newcomers. We see so many new faces in these times. It's not just CCE. The Lord is doing a great stirring in the world around us. I am delighted to report how many newcomers report having been greeted and welcomed well. Thank you CCE family. As we get in the new building soon, we should expect many visitors. I am working to have a well thought out flow for newbies to be welcomed, offered information they need, and invited into fellowship with us. In particular, I am looking for some key helpers skilled in things like social media, news media, creation and dissemination of informational materials. And I am asking you all to pray for your own sensitivity to newcomers. Do you notice them? Have you introduced yourself? With whom do you circle up for conversation after worship? Is your circle "closed"? Pray about this. People stick when they make friends in a church.

Pastoral Transition. Evan and I have been working on a sharper definition of our transition plan. We met with a wise "elder" pastor who works with pastoral staff both locally and globally. He has helped us sharpen goals and vision. In a nutshell, Evan is tracking well to become lead pastor. He is

in seminary, developing pastoral experience and skill, and he and I together are working on leadership topics. Evan and I are different, so he will lead his way (not mine). That’s the way it should be. We are developing benchmarks and seeking the Lord’s counsel on schedule. We are asking for the Lord’s direction about how I will serve after Evan takes the lead. Pray about that. Evan and I believe that CCE is at a size and vitality to be a two-pastor church for the long run. He and I have plenty to do to keep us running – both of us full-time. Pray for that as well. We will have more to share soon.

Finally – CCE is awesome! Our finances are strong, our “vibe” is welcoming to new folks.

Most of all, we are making much of Jesus and are unwavering in our commitment to Biblical truth. Despite having no building, we are doing 98% of what we think we are called to do (the missing piece is eating together and hosting others). We have a wonderful provision for the future. Evan is awesome. Our new building is going to be terrific. Our standing in our community is solid. And all of you – our CCE family – are being used by the Lord to bring His Kingdom to a broken world. Praise the Lord!

In Him, and serving alongside all of you,

Pastor Mike

Approved Budget Fiscal Year 2026/2027

Income

Tithes and Offerings	\$297,000
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Total Income	\$297,000
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Expense

Adult Discipleship	\$5,020
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Care	\$2,660
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Children and Youth Ministries	\$6,000
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Finance	\$49,522
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Hospitality Committee	\$6,150
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Missions	\$20,750
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Outreach	\$7,800
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Senior Pastor	\$55,620
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Associate Pastor	\$97,178
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Trustees	\$42,400
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Worship	\$3,900
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Total Expense	\$297,000
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From the Associate Pastor's Pen

A couple weeks ago, I was spending some time with a few other pastors, and one of us posed a question to the group, "If someone were to ask you what the purpose of your church is, what would you tell them?"

Before I tell you what I heard, and what I'd like to share with you, take a moment to answer this on behalf of our church, CCE. If someone were to ask you what the purpose of CCE is, how would you answer?

I have no doubt that, if you are reading this newsletter, your answer would include Jesus in one way or another – that we exist to glorify Him, to proclaim His gospel, to teach and train followers of Him towards His life and teaching (to make disciples). Our community only exists because of Jesus, so it makes sense that we exist for His purposes.

As we inch closer and closer to our transition into the new building, into a new season at CCE, I think it is vitally important for us to have the purposes of Jesus at the forefront of our minds. There has been and will continue to be many opportunities for distraction— whether it be conflict over details regarding the building, growing pains, or working out the kinks in the new space. In light of this, let me share with you a biblical metaphor Jesus used to explain what He's all about, which my pastor friend tapped into when answering the question.

"My hope is that our church freely and genuinely offers the living water of Jesus to all those who are thirsty and would like to drink what He has to offer," my pastor buddy answered.

I love this response. I love this metaphor because it is profoundly biblical – one Jesus uses a couple different times, and one that is found both in

Isaiah 55 as well as at the end of the Bible in Revelation 21. But I also love it because it clarifies and simplifies what the Church should be all about.

In the Gospel of John, during the final day of a major Jewish festival, Jesus cried this to the crowds: "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified." -John 7:37b-39

Jesus boldly proclaimed His invitation to the thirsty in the midst of confusion and strife. The whole story leading up to this is full of the religious leaders arguing about who He was. And He seemingly cuts through all the noise with this simple invitation – come to me and drink.

We could have a fancy new building, world-class programming, coffee, sermons, small groups, children's ministries, community events, and potlucks in this next season, but if we aren't clearly cutting through the chaos of the world and inviting the thirsty in our town to come and drink from the living waters of Jesus, than all is for naught. It is possible for our church to offer a bunch of stuff that ain't the living water of Jesus. Coca-Cola is fine every once in a while. Coffee is good too. But any drink other than the living water of Jesus will not quench our thirst.

How can CCE be a people and a place where the thirsty can come and be satisfied in Jesus?

Number one, we ourselves must be drinking from Jesus. In the passage above, Jesus tells us, once we believe in Him, once we drink what He has to

offer, “rivers of living water will flow from within us.” John explains what Jesus means, that for those of us who have tasted the living water of Christ, we have the Holy Spirit now, the presence of God in us and the source of living water. As we continually drink from the Well of Christ and are filled with Him, we carry the life of Jesus with us (2 Cor. 4:11).

Number two, we must preserve the purity of the water. As I preached about a few weeks ago in Galatians 2, the enemy is always looking for ways to pollute the gospel, to twist and distort it into a drink of death rather than a drink of life. We must be anchored in the Word, anchored in truth, so that we are not deceived or manipulated into buying and selling soda when we are to be sources of the river of life.

Lastly, we are to be on the lookout for those who are thirsty. There are many around us longing for a satisfying drink of water, whether they know it or not. We must be confident in what God has given us and must be generous stewards of the living water He’s given us. Be as fervent in offering Jesus to the thirsty as a mother is when her children are running around on a hot summer day.

However, it’s important to remember, as the old saying goes, you can lead a horse to water, but you can’t force it to drink. We must be bold to

share Jesus’ invitation with them, but we must trust the Lord to do His work.

I’ll end with Isaiah’s words in Isaiah 55:

“Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.² Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy?

Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and you will delight in the richest of fare. ³ Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David.⁴ See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of the peoples.⁵ Surely you will summon nations you know not, and nations you do not know will come running to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has endowed you with splendor.⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon.”

Love y’all!
In Christ, Evan

Missions Update

The Missions page on the CCE Website has links to all of our supported missions and missionaries plus their most recent newsletters and updates. Here is the latest...

Caring Families (ChloeCare) – Baby Bottle campaign ends on Father’s Day, June 21st. Every coin, bill, or check placed in a bottle becomes a lifeline for women navigating pregnancy related decisions. Your generosity helps provide truly compassionate care, offering a window to the womb through ultrasounds, supplying essential resources, and providing powerful mentoring programs and healing support groups. CCE bottles can be returned to the table at the Sunday Service. Eileen Geriak is this year's Baby Bottle coordinator. Talk with her if you want more info or have questions.

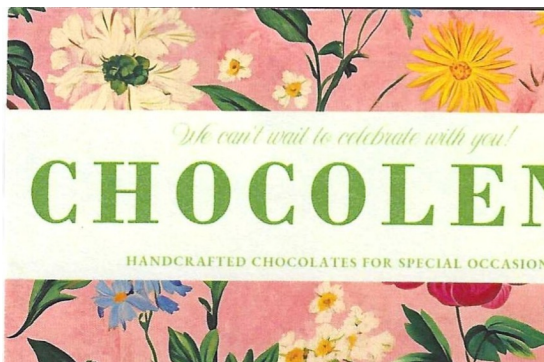
Jen McCormick (UW Sports Ministry) – The 2026 summer Sports Camp season kicked off the week of May 25th with coach and intern training in Lynchburg, VA. The first Sports Camp is also in Lynchburg the week of 6/1 after which 4 coaching teams head out to serve at 32 camps throughout the US over the next 8 weeks. Pray for this ministry and the churches holding camps to reach children with God’s Word. And you can learn about and pray for coaches individually as they are now profiled on the UW website. Just click on this link: [Meet the Coaches - UW Sports Ministry](#)

His Mansion – We are looking forward to a visit from His Mansion executive director Courtney Jones at CCE on Sunday June 14th. It will be exciting to hear how this ministry impacts the lives of men and women through the redemptive love of Jesus.

Persecuted Church - As a Christian in a Muslim nation, Daoud is in a precarious position both personally and in his ministry. Last month we got a surprise personal video from Daoud. If you missed that, click on this link: [Meet Daoud and Hear his Message](#)

Women’s Ministry Bible Studies

Something New and Exciting! Help support a local business!!



June 23rd, 10 am

Come to a Chocolate Tasting at Chocolea!

Join us as we learn about their chocolate and taste some too!

Location is at the Chocolea Cottage (2nd floor), 168 Quasset Road in Pomfret.

If we get 10 people attending, cost will be \$10 each, 20 people \$5 each.

Terri needs to know by the 14th if we have enough people, so please RSVP as soon as possible!!

860-576-0882 or trwarren2366@gmail.com.

All three Women's Bible Studies continue to meet regularly. We would love you to join us whenever you can!

Monday	6:30 pm	Marissa Ciovacco's home
Tuesday	8:00 am	Church Office
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Church Office

Craft night will take the summer off! Look for a fall restart!

There is a Facebook specifically for Women's Ministry News. If a search doesn't locate it, talk to Terri and she'll hook you up!! Don't do Facebook? There is an email list that can keep you updated...just let Terri know that is how you wish to receive news.

Contact Terri Warren with any questions. trwarren2366@gmail.com or 860-576-0882

Brought to you by
 UW Sports Ministry
 Congregational Church Eastford
 Living Proof Church Ashford

Sports Camp (Ages 4 – 12)

cceastford.org/sports-camp/



Held at Eastford Elementary School, 12 Westford Rd, Eastford, CT
 \$65/camper (Email cceastford@gmail.com if financial help needed.)
Sign up by Sunday, July 5th to be guaranteed a t-shirt!



Congregational
 Church
 of
 Eastford

July 27 – 31, 2026 (8:30 am-12:15 pm)



Sports Camp 2026

Volunteers needed: <https://cceastford.org/volunteer/>

Register and pay for your campers (ages 4 to 12): <https://cceastford.org/sports-camp/>

Childcare (Birth – Pre K) offered during the Worship Service

Questions?
 See Casey Jolin

7	Casey J, Dot C, Porter B, Faye L (Door)
14	Johnny B, Deb T, David B, Annie B (Door)
21	Casey J, Rachel B, Mia C, Dot C (Door)
28	James B, Deb T, Natallia K, Jean B (Door)

Bible Explorers (Grades K - 4) dismissed after opening songs

Questions?
 See Jen Barlow

7	Josh B, Deb T, David B
14	Matt and Katie C, Linnea B, Mia C
21	Amanda and Anthony C, Josh J, Georgia B
28	Jen B, Chelsey B, Porter B

Baby Bottle Campaign

Mother's Day, May 10 -
Father's Day, June 21



Caring Families
Compassion for Our Community

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTFORD'S

FREE FROG JUMP BAND CONCERT & COOKOUT



SAT. JULY 11, 2026 5 - 8 pm

Held at Crystal Pond Park