

Church News

The Congregational Church of Eastford

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

July 2026

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CARE NOTE:

"YOU ARE THE
PEACE IN MY
TROUBLED SEA!"

Rebuild Updates:

[https://cceastford.org/
rebuild/](https://cceastford.org/rebuild/)



JULY				
	✓	Luke	✓	Ecclesiastes
1	☐	10-12	☐	1
2	☐	13-15	☐	2
3	☐	16-18	☐	3
4	☐	19-21	☐	4
5	☐	22-24	☐	5
		Amos		
6	☐	1-3	☐	6
7	----- <i>Reflection</i> -----			
8	☐	4-6	☐	7
9	☐	7-9	☐	8
		1 Chronicles		
10	☐	1-4	☐	9
11	☐	5-8	☐	10
12	☐	9-11	☐	11
13	☐	12-14	☐	12
14	----- <i>Reflection</i> -----			
				Song of Songs
15	☐	15-17	☐	1
16	☐	18-20	☐	2
17	☐	21-23	☐	3
18	☐	24-26	☐	4
19	☐	27-29	☐	5
		Hosea		
20	☐	1-4	☐	6
21	----- <i>Reflection</i> -----			
22	☐	5-8	☐	7
23	☐	9-11	☐	8
				Psalm
24	☐	12-14	☐	95
		1 Corinthians		
25	☐	1-2	☐	96
26	☐	3-5	☐	97
27	☐	6-8	☐	98
28	☐	9-11	☐	99

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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 awesome God we serve. He is so very good to us. Our new building is nearing completion, many of our people are growing spiritually, and we are being strengthened by the Lord. We continue to welcome newcomers. A recent bittersweet occasion was when we prayed over two families as they were relocating to Florida. As we prayed, I was reminded that the Lord brought them to us – we baptized them all – and they served wholeheartedly during their time as part of CCE. There were tears – a visible marker of the love we share in Christ Jesus. And there was hope of greater Gospel impact as they go forth. We had the privilege of being part of God's provision for the arc of their lives in Christ. I imagine we will hear back from them as they share sweet testimonies of God's continued work in their lives. This is what we do. This is a picture of the Great Commission – to make disciples, to baptize them and to bring them up in their relationship with the Lord.

CCE is very special. Here are some things for prayer. Pray for our prayer life together to be strengthened and to be ever increasing. Pray for our continued commitment to the Word of God – the Bible. Pray for our love for one another to be ever growing – that none would go unnoticed, that all would be cared for. Pray that the Lord would strengthen our likeness to that 1st Century church we see described in Acts 2:42-47:

⁴² And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ And all who believed were together and had all things in common. ⁴⁵ And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added

to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Please pray for our pastoral leadership transition – for Evan and I to have wisdom as to roles and timing.

And, as Jesus said,

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. - Luke 10:2

Pray for the Lord to superintend all the details of our frog jump and band concert (July 11) and especially that He bring many who do not yet know Him. Pray for sports camp (July 27-31), for ample workers and many campers with hearts open to the Gospel. Pray for our building's completion – for details, God's provision and especially for our creative and fruitful use of this marvelous new Gospel tool.

And finally, pray for those among us who are suffering, struggling, grieving, ill, lonely, broken, captive...and pray that we might act. Often, we are God's answer to our own prayers. So, visit the sick. Comfort the afflicted. Give to the poor. Lend a kind and helpful hand to folks. Contribute your time and treasure with generosity and joy. And as Paul writes, “greet one another with a holy kiss.”

Praise Jesus! In Him,

Pastor Mike

ps. Interested in membership? Let Evan or me know.

pps. Interested in being baptized? We will have baptisms at our church picnic Sunday August 30. Let Evan or me know.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF EASTFORD'S

**FREE FROG JUMP
BAND CONCERT
& COOKOUT**

SAT. JULY 11, 2026 5 - 8 pm

Held at Crystal Pond Park

**Free Family Fun!
Frog Jump, Band Concert, and Cookout**

Crystal Pond Park, 305 Crystal Pond Road, Woodstock, CT
Lifeguards on duty for swimming

5:00 – 5:30 Frog registration (catch your own or borrow one!)
5:30 – 6:30 Frog Jump and Cookout (ice cream sundaes for dessert)
6:30 – 7:30 Band Concert (East Woodstock Cornet Band) and Cake Walk

We could use some volunteers!

- Contact **Mike Jenkins** if you plan to help with ***table and chair pickup, setup, and cleanup*** mikejenkins650@gmail.com or call/text him at 860-883-5512.
- Contact **Lisa Kellermann** if you plan to help with ***grilling or food*** lisakellermann430@gmail.com or call/text her at 860-234-0584.
- Contact **Allison Gormley** to volunteer as a ***parking attendant or to help at the bounce house or cotton candy machine*** birdingis4me@gmail.com or call/text her at 860-428-8367.
- Contact **Terri Warren** if you can bring a ***cake for the cake walk*** trwarren2366@gmail.com or call/text her at 860-576-0882.

From the Associate Pastor's Pen

For this year's fourth of July celebrations, I'm going to be up in New Hampshire at a Christian summer camp finishing up a week as a speaker to 4th-6th graders. As I write this, I'm not quite finished planning out all my talks to these kids, but I do know how I'm going to frame the week's messages— with the Exodus story. What sparked this idea was a recent series the Bible Project put out about how the Exodus narrative is one of the most called back stories throughout the Bible. If you're curious, I highly recommend their short summary video (just search for 'The Exodus Way Bible Project' on YouTube).

My goal throughout the week will be to put Jesus front and center before the kids as much as possible, connecting the Exodus story to all that Jesus did for us. The connections really are amazing (and this is why I love the Bible so much). The pattern the Bible Project picks up on is how God repeatedly rescues His people out of bondage, through the wilderness, and into a promised land. This is what God does via Moses in Exodus - Joshua, and then God continuously does throughout the Scriptures. Of course, the culmination of this pattern is in what Jesus does for us – He rescues His people out of the bondage of sin and death, He leads us through the wilderness of this earthly life, and ushers us into eternity with Him!

What I'm going to repeat over and over to these kids is that Jesus is the Way! He is the way out of our slavery to sin and death, He is the way through the wilderness and challenges of this life, and He is the way into eternity with God.

Out of these three realities, I think the hardest one to convince people of today (kids and adults), is that we need rescuing at all, that we are in bondage at all. Why would we need Jesus to be the way out of slavery if we aren't in chains? And

even if people recognize they are in some kind of slavery, be it addiction, health troubles, finances or injustice, they're much more likely to turn towards other avenues of rescuing than Jesus! To me, this is the great lie of the age, that there is no need we have that can't be met by some product or influencer.

The messaging this time of year doesn't help either. As we celebrate July 4th, freedom is touted and proclaimed all over the place in our country. In so many ways, I am grateful for the hard-earned freedoms our country allows, especially compared to the state of many throughout history and around the world today. We are freer in America today than most humans have ever been throughout history, and that is something to celebrate and give thanks for!

Yet, when I look around at my fellow Americans, I wonder, is this what true freedom looks like? Is this the kind of freedom God and Jesus have in mind for humanity? As one commentary on Galatians puts it:

“For one thing, all the rah-rah formulas of freedom that our society spawns are nonsense. They are either simplistic, escape-hatch freedoms from responsibility or vulgar, manipulative freedoms to exploit others... Absolute freedoms are fantasy freedoms. They deny God and they ignore creation, using only the ego as a base for freedom... I am convinced that people settle for far too little in matters of freedom. Christians, in touch with the God who grants us a freedom far richer than its political and cultural versions, are in the privileged but awesomely responsible position of pioneers of the free spirit, the free life.”

America has afforded us with one layer of freedom that I am proud of and thankful for. And

yet, I am not satisfied or convinced it is enough. As Paul writes in Galatians 5:1, “It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.”

We live in a day and age where there are no shortages of new and seductive ‘yokes of slavery’. Our culture tells us we are free to be whoever we

For this 4th of July, I pray our church would use the freedoms our country has afforded to toss off the new yokes of slavery, and put on the yoke of Christ, for His yoke is easy, and His burden light (Matt. 11:28). Only Jesus has the power to make us free in the deepest sense of the word. Jesus is the Way out of this world’s slavery, sin and death. As I will be repeating this over and over again to some 4th-6th graders, I proclaim it to you Church – Jesus is the Way!

want to be, and we spend hours and hours a week curating an image of ourselves we want the world to see on Facebook and Instagram. Just take a hard look at your screentime on your smartphone and tell me if you’re truly free! We’re duped into buying products to maximize our health and wellness and efficiency and productivity that end up being nothing but shiny new chains. I could go on and on...

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”-Jesus in John 14:6

Love y’all!
In Christ,
Evan



Supper and testimonies (please RSVP to Jonathan at 860-821-3469).
Come in by the red barn (28 Westford Rd) and drive down to the shop (30 Westford Rd).

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 ended on Father’s Day, June 21st, so if you still have a bottle you would like counted toward CCE’s total contribution, please hand it to Eileen Geriak ASAP.

Nurse Melanie Murphy has joined the Caring Families team, a great fit for a position we have been praying to be filled. Her maternity and postpartum experience, compassion for women and families and her heart for this ministry make her a wonderful addition to the Caring Families team.

We Need to See More Babies! Nurse Melanie is moving toward ultrasound certification! To complete requirements, she needs opportunities to perform scans under supervision. We are looking for pregnant moms in the first or second trimester. These ultrasounds are completely free and are a huge help to expanding our medical team here at Caring Families. Every appointment brings her one step closer, so we have set aside four special dates to make it happen quickly: **July 7 & 9**.

The Caring Families team spent 5 weeks at Eastern Connecticut State University, teaching young women life honoring principles of reproductive health through their CycleWise program.

Jen McCormick (UW Sports Ministry) – The 2026 summer Sports Camp season is at midseason. Coaches and UW staff will gather in Lynchburg the week of 6/30 to share experiences and coach a short week of camp. Then teams will head out for the second half of the season. Pray for safe travel as many will be driving to their destinations over the Fourth of July weekend and beyond.

Latest stats...after 3 weeks and 11 camps, out of 939 campers, 168 made decisions for Christ! Praise the Lord!

His Mansion – The June Missions Moment with His Mansion Director Courtney Jones was cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. It will be rescheduled at a future date.

Four residents graduated in June. As they move into new life paths, pray for the Lord to lead them in wise decisions, supportive friendships, and to continue to grow their relationship with the Lord.

His Oaks – We welcome this local Eastford ministry back into CCE’s missions portfolio. His Oaks ministry assists disadvantaged or disenfranchised men who are struggling to overcome past various life-controlling issues from a Biblical and medical perspective. Through prayer and active training and coaching, their goal is to enable these men to take an active role in society, growing in faith and equipping them to live and work in the greater community. The residents and staff of His Oaks have made us their home church. They are attending services, helping set up the gym on Sundays, participating in the Sunday morning prayer meetings before the service and working with the wood ministry.

Nomads – a Missions Moment is scheduled for Sunday August 2 during the service. Ben and Ryan will be here to tell us about their recent mission trip to the United Arab Emirates.



Women's Ministry

All three Women's Bible Studies continue to meet regularly. Join us whenever you can!

Monday	6:30 pm	Marissa Ciovacco's home
Tuesday	8:30 am	Church Office (NEW TIME)
Tuesday	6:30 pm	Church Office

Diaper Drive for Joe and Amanda Klar on July 12: Amanda is due July 19th! Let's bless them with a carload of diapers. Bring your donation to church on the 12th. Place them in the Blue Ford Escape parked next to the handicap space--the hatchback will be open.

There is a Facebook specifically for Women's Ministry News. 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/

Team 45

Basketball

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!

Cheerleading

Flag Football

Soccer

Congregational
Church
of
Eastford

July 27 – 31, 2026 (8:30 am-12:15 pm)

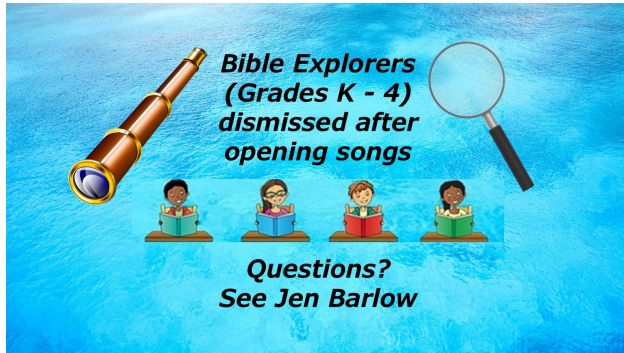
Sports Camp 2026

Volunteer signup: <https://cceastford.org/volunteer/>

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



5	Kirstin B, Linnea B, David B, Dot C (Door)
12	Karen Johnson, Kiersten M, Natallia K, Ian M (Door)
19	Casey J, Rachel B, Helper, Annie B (Door)
26	Jean B, Faye L, Helper, James B (Door)



5	Jen/Josh B, Jillian V, Jericho H
12	Josh B, Deb T, Mia C
19	Matt and Katie C, Linnea B, Georgia B
26	Matt and Katie C, Josh J, Helper

Calling All Ladies

Do you love to sing? Do you love to praise the Lord? Sue Leavitt is looking to raise up treble voices (this may include children who love to sing) to present a song of praise to celebrate our new church. If you are interested in joining this praise chorus, please contact Sue at 860 836-0394. She will be forthcoming with dates and place of rehearsals.