

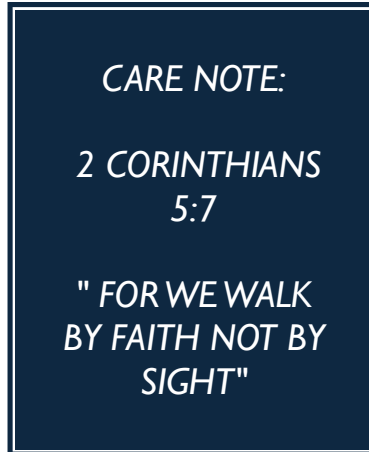
Church News

The Congregational Church of Eastford

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

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September 2026



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



SEPTEMBER			
	✓	1 Timothy	✓ Psalm
1	☐	1-3	☐ 119:49-64
2	☐	4-6	☐ 119:65-80
		Esther	
3	☐	1-3	☐ 119:81-96
4	☐	4-7	☐ 119:97-112
5	☐	8-10	☐ 119:113-128
6	☐	2 Timothy	☐ 119:129-144
7		Reflection	
		Job	
8	☐	1-3	☐ 119:145-160
9	☐	4-6	☐ 119:161-176
10	☐	7-9	☐ 120
11	☐	10-12	☐ 121
12	☐	13-15	☐ 122
			Isaiah
13	☐	16-18	☐ 1
14		Reflection	
15	☐	19-21	☐ 2
16	☐	22-24	☐ 3
17	☐	25-27	☐ 4
18	☐	28-30	☐ 5
19	☐	31-33	☐ 6
20	☐	34-36	☐ 7
		Reflection	
21			
22	☐	37-39	☐ 8
23	☐	40-42	☐ 9
24	☐	Titus	☐ 10
		Jeremiah	
25	☐	1-3	☐ 11
26	☐	4-6	☐ 12
27	☐	7-9	☐ 13
28	☐	10-12	☐ 14

Congregational Church of Eastford

Sunday Service at 10 AM – Eastford Elementary School
Rebuilding at 54 John Perry Rd, Eastford
Mailing address: PO Box 177, Eastford, CT 06242-0177

Email: cceastford@gmail.com Website: www.cceastford.org Call/Text: (860) 974-0294

Pastor: Mike Moran mltamoran@gmail.com, 860-942-6617

Assoc. Pastor: Evan Burgess evan.cceastford@gmail.com, 860-794-0045

Office Manager: Deb Torcellini office@cceastford.org, 860-974-0294

From the Pastor's Pen

Greetings in the Name of Jesus!

A few weeks ago, my daughter took her four children to Lake Compounce, the oldest amusement park in America (180 years old!). The older kids took rides on “Boulder Dash,” a crazy wooden roller coaster and its little brother, “Wildcat”, built in 1927. They reported having fun, but I imagine there were moments of, shall we say, “discomfort”.

Well, Church family, buckle up, tighten up the chinstrap on that helmet, and get ready for a ride that will be both exhilarating and perhaps uncomfortable at times. In the coming weeks we will begin the transition into our new building. Because of the nature of the funding (insurance and such), things will seem like they are getting completed out of sequence. Remember that “Extreme Makeover” TV show where a home is completely transformed when it is presented to the family – all the way to the Ninja Turtle comforter on the kid’s bed? Yeah. This won’t be like that.

We will be in the sanctuary for worship on Sunday mornings before the rest of the building is fully fitted out. The landscaping at the site will appear unfinished. The coming months may seem chaotic, even stressful. But I am excited as I am deeply convinced that God is doing a marvelous work. He is giving us a new tool to serve Him in sharing Jesus with our community and the world, for learning together what He has said in His Word, and for being transformed into the likeness of Jesus Himself. You will recall that over a decade ago we heard the Lord tell us to prepare for Him to bring growth. He used this verse:

“Enlarge the place of your tent,
and let the curtains of your habitations

be stretched out;
do not hold back; lengthen your cords
and strengthen your stakes.
(Isaiah 54:2)

We did as He said. We “strengthened our stakes” as we committed to the Word of God, to prayer and to loving one another. We prayed for younger families and He answered. We did “not hold back” as we bought new land following the fire. And now we see a beautiful, spacious and very useful building nearing completion. He has brought the growth in numbers and in spiritual depth that I offer to you is just the beginning.

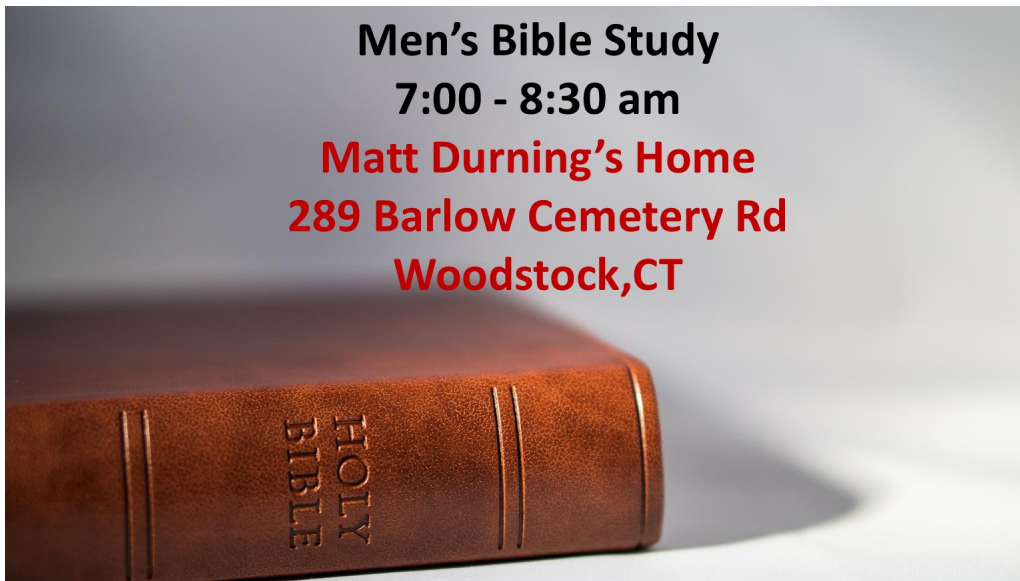
Now, we are just about to walk through a “colorful” season. I invite you to join me as we lean into what the Lord has for us, knowing that our spiritual growth most often comes in seasons of challenge while also knowing that we probably have no idea how wonderful it is going to be.

“What no eye has seen,
what no ear has heard,
and what no human mind has conceived”
the things God has prepared for those
who love him. (1 Corinthians 2:9).

In Him,

Pastor Mike

P.S. I just walked through the building, and it is remarkable. The complexity and detail our small team has managed are breathtaking. Please join me in thanking the Lord for their labor and thanking them for more than 3½ years of faithful service.



Men's Bible Study
7:00 - 8:30 am
Matt Durning's Home
289 Barlow Cemetery Rd
Woodstock,CT



Women's Ministry
Tuesday 8:30 AM
and
Tuesday 6:30 PM
Bible Studies
meet at
Terri Warren's Home
99 Mill Bridge Rd #2
Eastford, CT

Kids' Club and Youth Group
Sundays 2:00 – 3:30 PM
September 13, 20, 27
Meeting at Eastford Baptist Church
Family Activity Center
133 Union Road, Eastford

Kids' Club will move to Tuesdays when Discipleship Nights begin!

From the Associate Pastor's Pen

When we put our faith in Christ, we are adopted into God's family and become members of the big C Church.

"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 4:26-28

As Paul wrote to the Galatian church, when we put our faith in Christ, the way we think about ourselves must change, because our identity has been transformed. Our ethnicity, earthly status, and gender are not erased, but all other identity markers take a backseat to our identity as Christians, little Christs, sons of God.

However, if you look closer at what Paul is saying here, you'll notice that we are not simply transformed as individuals into new individuals. Faith in Christ joins us to Christ AS WELL AS ALL OTHERS WHO ARE IN CHRIST. As pastor and scholar Joseph Hellerman puts it in his book 'When the Church Was a Family':

"The idea of salvation cannot be reduced to (only) a personal relationship with Jesus. God's plan is much more encompassing. God intends for salvation to be a community-creating event. Any convictions we might have about how we relate to God as individuals must stand as subordinate to this overarching biblical reality. B. Witherington eloquently put it this way: "The community, not the closet, is the place where salvation is worked out." Among the early Christians, salvation involved both a new relationship with God and a new relationship with God's group."

When you look at God's story of Scripture, salvation in both the Old and New Testaments are community-creating events. When God delivers the Israelites from Egypt, He saves them and brings them into the wilderness to shape them into His chosen people. In Acts chapter 2 at Pentecost, God puts His Spirit into His new people who receive the gospel by faith and the Church is born.

And what does this new church look like? Here's how it is described in Acts chapter 2:

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

The first church congregation is described as living like a family. They spent a bunch of time together, learning and listening to the apostle's teaching, praying together. They also ate together a bunch (something this passage notes twice!). They shared everything, making sure everyone was taken care of.

When I read and chew on this description of the first church family, I have two different reactions in my heart and soul. My first reaction to this description is one of awe and wonder, where I'm thinking, "Man, that is awesome! It must have

been an absolute delight to be a part of that community!” Then I start to wonder what it must’ve been like day to day. And the more I think about what the first church must’ve been like, the more I realize how far the distance is between what the church was like then and what local churches are like now. It feels like an impossible distance, an impossible gap between what the church is like initially and what the reality of church life is like right now in 21st century New England.

But I can’t help but wonder, can our church become more like the early church? Can God through His Spirit and His Word and the example of His Son move and work in us to become more like this first expression of His new people? How can we at CCE become more like the real family we truly are in Christ?

Church, I ask you all to pray and chew on this with me. How can we better share our stuff with one another? How can we better share our hearts with one another the way the church did initially (read 1 Thess. 2:17-3:8 for a snapshot of Paul’s relationship with his fellow siblings in Christ is like)? How can we eat more together? How can we grow more together (both through maturing ourselves and through adding new family members to Christ’s family)?

The reality is, in Christ, we “are all one.” This is one of the amazing implications of the gospel. Though this is the spiritual reality for those of us in Christ, I think the hard truth is this is not often our lived reality. But I believe it could be.

However, it can only be a lived reality through the power and work of God through His Holy Spirit.

I’ll conclude with letting Scripture speak for itself.

¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵ by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. ¹⁷ He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. ²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.”

-Ephesians 2:13-22

Love y’all.

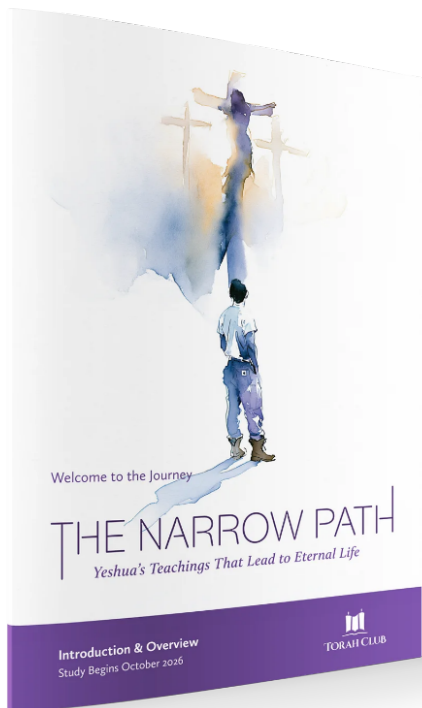
In Christ,

Pastor 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).

Coming this Fall: TORAH CLUB



Torah Club is a small-group Bible study community discovering the Scriptures from a Messianic Jewish perspective. Torah Club is a year-long Bible study that begins each October, featuring forty-nine weekly lessons focused on the Bible and the teachings of Yeshua from a Messianic Jewish perspective. Participants receive printed lesson books, weekly video teachings, and access to Club Hub—an online space for ongoing discussion, questions, and connection with the wider Torah Club community. Everything is designed to support a consistent, structured, and engaging study experience throughout the year. This year's study is called "The Narrow Path." It turns out that Jesus has something to say about every aspect of how we live our lives, interact with our neighbors, conduct business, handle our resources, and serve God. This is not typical Bible study; it's an invitation to discipleship. Membership Fee \$80/year.

For information contact: Bruce Barlow 269-719-6020 email: bsbarlow@gmail.com

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...

Martin and Ruth Ghent

Two 24-hour camps (one for elementary and the second for junior high/high school students) were held in August. Summer camps are not a custom in Japan but God was working, and these camps are becoming quite popular. Parents are invited to attend, and the gatherings continue to deepen relationships with the families in the community.

Nomads

The Missions Team is excited about supporting Nomads Ministry! Tyler, Ben and Ryan spoke during the service on August 2nd about their recent trip to the UAE where they experienced God's power in action as they ministered to many Muslims. They shared about witnessing several physical and emotional healings. God is on the move in the Middle East!

Caring Families (ChloeCare)

The 2nd Annual Laugh for Life Comedy Night will be held Friday October 16, 2026. More details to come on this evening of clean family-friendly comedy, all to support the life-affirming work of Caring Families.

The MobileCare team has been busy this summer, taking the van to events like Willimantic's Third Thursday Street Festival and the Windham Family & Community Expo. They were able provide on-the-spot pregnancy tests and counseling to multiple women in need.

Gideons, Eastern CT is planning Bible distributions at UCONN and ECSU in the coming weeks.

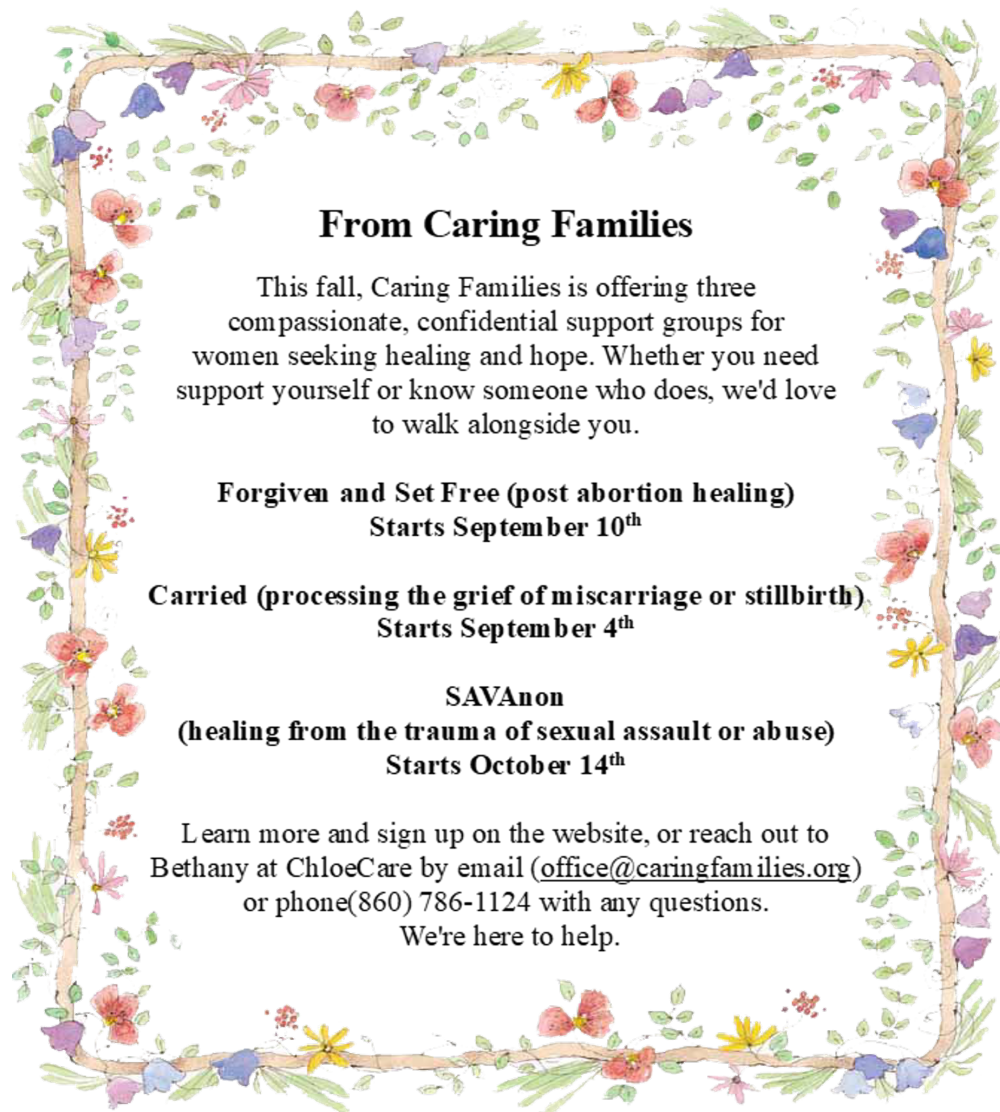
Jen McCormick (UW Sports Ministry)

After a busy 9 weeks of sports camps across the country, Jen and James are taking some time to enjoy their new home in Limestone, TN. During the last half of the camp season, Jen traveled to camps in New England, reconnecting with friends in Middletown RI, Chaplin, CT and of course, here at CCE, her home church. UW Sports Ministries is pleased to release the 2026 camp statistics: 41 camps, 2918 campers, and 438 decisions for Christ. It was a blessed summer indeed!

His Mansion

Two men, Sean and John, recently completed their time in the Resident Recovery Program. Both are fathers who will return to their families with a renewed vision for loving, leading and serving their families as men of integrity.

The Summer Shindig is an annual celebration at His Mansion. This year it started with the baptism of 4 residents who made a public profession of faith to follow Christ. The evening was filled with lightheartedness and laughter which is a beautiful gift to experience on the Hill. Residents and staff participated in the talent show. The talent show is more than just performing - men and women who have been living in shame are opening up and allowing themselves to be seen and delighted in by others.



From Caring Families

This fall, Caring Families is offering three compassionate, confidential support groups for women seeking healing and hope. Whether you need support yourself or know someone who does, we'd love to walk alongside you.

Forgiven and Set Free (post abortion healing)
Starts September 10th

Carried (processing the grief of miscarriage or stillbirth)
Starts September 4th

SAVAAnon
(healing from the trauma of sexual assault or abuse)
Starts October 14th

Learn more and sign up on the website, or reach out to Bethany at ChloeCare by email (office@caringfamilies.org) or phone (860) 786-1124 with any questions.
We're here to help.

DivorceCare

Our DivorceCare team has decided that we will be hosting a one-time session called **“DivorceCare Surviving the Holidays”** prior to Thanksgiving and begin the 13-week session after Christmas. Please consider sharing this important ministry with friends or relatives who are struggling with separation or divorce. This support group can be very helpful to those who are mourning the loss of their marriage and aren't sure just how they will navigate the unknown waters facing them. Please stay tuned for more information or contact one of our team: Sue or John Leavitt, Karen Jenkins or Dot Cote.

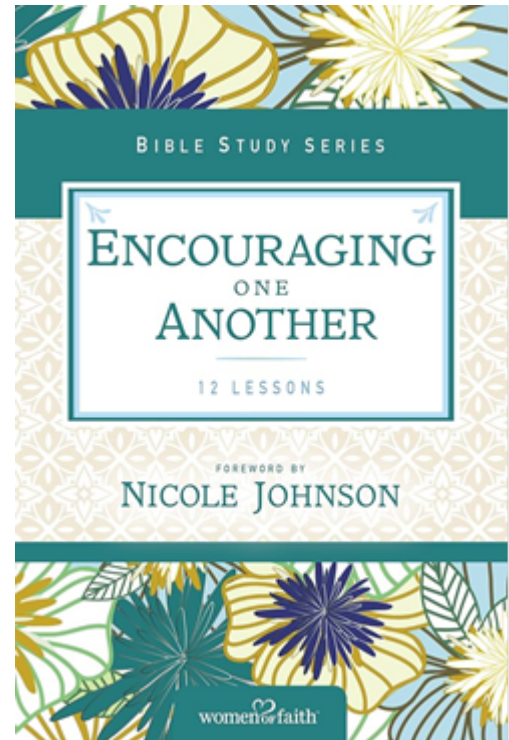
GriefShare

Our GriefShare team plans to offer their programs on Thursday nights in the new building. They will be hosting a one-time session called **“GriefShare Surviving the Holidays”** on **November 19, 2026** and are working on dates and times for the next Loss of a Spouse and 13-week GriefShare session.

Women's Ministry



Both the Tuesday morning and evening Bible studies will be held at Terri's home (99 Mill Bridge Rd #2, Eastford) until we are able to meet in the church building.



Our morning study meets at 8:30 am, where we are currently working through the study guide, "Encouraging One Another." It is not too late to join us, as each chapter stands on its own.

Our evening study meets at 6:30 pm, where we are currently exploring "Gideon: Your Weakness, God's Strength" by Priscilla Shirer. Anyone is welcome to jump in at any time. Please note that due to the group size, we may eventually relocate to Lisa Kellermann's home; I encourage everyone to check the church website or Facebook page for any updates.

We would love to have more women join either group, as having numerous voices makes each lesson much more meaningful.

Craft Night is Back!!

We are excited to bring back our monthly craft night!! On the third Wednesday of each month, we gather to work on current projects or learn new crafts. If there is a specific craft you are interested in learning, please reach out to Terri Warren and she'll do her best to coordinate it! This is a wonderful, easy-going setting to get to know other women in the church. **Our next session is September 16th at Terri's home (99 Mill Bridge Rd #2, Eastford)**

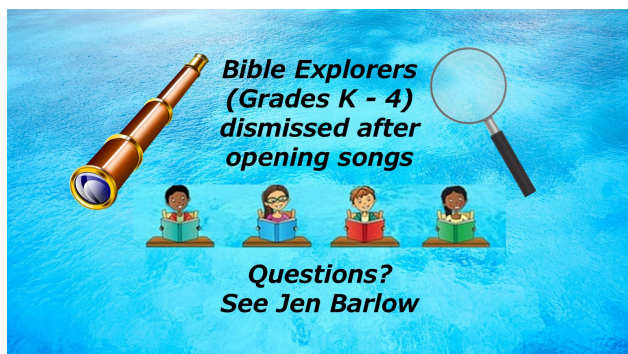
The Women's Ministry Team has many great ideas for future projects, but we would love some help in organizing them. If you are interested in helping or have an interest you would like to share with a group of women, please contact Terri Warren so we can find a way to plug you in!

Contact Terri if you have any questions-860-576-0882 or trwarren2366@gmail.com.

Team members: Terri Warren, Lisa Kellermann, Kirstin Budd, Chelsey Burgess, Lyn Moran, Annie Barlow



6	Rachel B, Dot C, Mia C, Karen Johnson (door)
13	Kirstin B, Annie B, David B, Jean B (door)
20	Faye L, Karen J, Natallia K, Casey J (door)
27	Casey J, Lindsay B, Porter B, Eric B (door)



6	Matt & Katie C, Chelsey B, Georgia B
13	Linnea B and Abigail B, Mia C
20	Josh B, Deb T, Porter B
27	Jen B, Josh J, David B



Firewood Ministry

Interested in helping cut, split, and stack firewood?

Contact John Leavitt (860-559-1545 or jwleavitt69@gmail.com) to help on Saturday mornings. This ministry prioritizes delivery to senior citizens, widows, and single parents.

Eastford Elementary School Board Games and Crafts

Willing to help with after-school board games or crafts one or more Wednesdays each month from 3:45 – 4:45 pm when the school year begins? Contact Allison Gormley at birdingis4me@gmail.com.



Children's Music Classes

These classes will resume in the fall after we are in our new building. There will probably be a change of day with some new leaders coming alongside Sue Leavitt to help. Stay tuned for the most up-to-date details soon. Sue looks forward to seeing the amazing growth that has happened with the children over the summer and can't wait for their hugs and happy voices.

Celebrate Good Times, Come On!

Sue Leavitt

That is not exactly a Christian musical selection, but it has been running through my head recently as I prepare to help provide some music for the celebration we will have as a congregation in our new church home. I visited the new building recently and am just amazed at the transformation of the last few months. It is really thrilling to see what the Lord has led us to do in creating a place to serve Him more effectively.

That being said, I am looking for women and children who like to sing and are willing to put in a little time to rehearse an uplifting, celebratory song for the dedication of our building. We still don't know the date of that celebration, but it will be this fall sometime. Please let me know if you would be willing to join the chorus of treble voices. Please contact me and include the following information: Name, contact number for text, and your voice part - Soprano 1, Soprano 2 or alto and the best times for you to rehearse.

The rehearsals will probably be either in the evening or on Saturday mornings at our home, 194 Old Town Rd., Ashford. I will also provide some kind of recording for you to practice at home. The best way to contact me is via text at 860 836-0394. I look forward to having you join in the great throng of heavenly voices!

Also from Sue Leavitt:

