

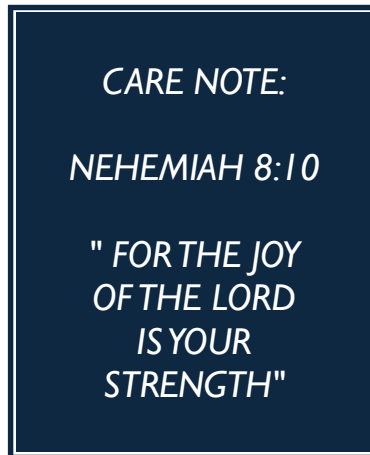
Church News

The Congregational Church of Eastford

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

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October 2026



Rebuild Updates:

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



OCTOBER				
	✓	Jeremiah	✓	Isaiah
1	☐	13-15	☐	15
2	☐	16-18	☐	16
3	☐	19-21	☐	17
4	☐	22-24	☐	18
5	☐	25-27	☐	19
6	☐	28-30	☐	20
7	----- Reflection -----			
8	☐	31-33	☐	21
9	☐	34-36	☐	22
10	☐	37-39	☐	23
11	☐	40-42	☐	24
12	☐	43-46	☐	25
13	☐	47-49	☐	26
14	----- Reflection -----			
15	☐	50-52	☐	27
		Lamentations		
16	☐	1-2	☐	28
17	☐	3-5	☐	29
		1 John		
18	☐	1-3	☐	30
19	☐	4-5	☐	31
20	☐	2 & 3 John	☐	32
21	----- Reflection -----			
		1 Peter		
22	☐	1-3	☐	33
23	☐	4-5	☐	34
		Ezekiel		
24	☐	1-4	☐	35
25	☐	5-7	☐	36
26	☐	8-11	☐	37
27	☐	12-15	☐	38
28	☐	16-19	☐	39

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 (Away Oct 12-16) mltamoran@gmail.com, 860-942-6617

Assoc. Pastor: Evan Burgess (Away Oct 21-24) evan.cceastford@gmail.com, 860-794-0045

Office Manager: Deb Torcellini (Away Oct 24-28) office@cceastford.org, 860-974-0294

From the Pastor's Pen

Greetings in the matchless Name of Jesus!

Most of you know that I grew up in the sunbelt, so I missed out on those deep Yankee roots that so many of you have. Despite coming to Connecticut 45 years ago, I still cannot get used to how dark it gets here in the winter. That said, I love the fall here (except the leaf raking). We see the stunning beauty of the fall foliage – a spectacle which my southern and western upbringing never afforded. The beauty of it is a clear reminder that God is a master Creator and the One who created us all. I offer that our right response to all the beauty is to worship our great God.

Back to the shortening of the days. The beauty of autumn will fade, and with it comes a foreboding sense that dark and cold will be upon us soon. Too soon. In our souls we know that light is life and that darkness is not okay. Have you ever met a little kid who was afraid of the dark? Me too – I was one. How about a child afraid of the light. Only the naughty ones. Darkness is where evil hides. It is where death abides. Darkness is where we cannot see the truth – it is the realm of deceit. A few nights ago, we had a power outage and there was no moon. Getting to the bathroom was a real “toe stubber.” I heard the voice of my six-year-old grandson, half awake and a frightened “I can’t see.”

Light is the opposite of all that, bringing goodness, life and truth. Jesus said these words;

“I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12) For me, when I met Jesus at the age of 39, His light blazed into my life, and everything changed. The coming of the light of Jesus is the same for so many of us at the Congregational Church of Eastford.

The same Jesus that said, “I am the light of the world,” also said to his disciples, “You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:14-16) These words are for us today.

I am reminded that the light is Jesus’ and not ourselves. I am reminded that for His light to shine my greater work is to seek Him, to surrender to Him, to humbly walk with Him. That means time in His Holy Word, time in prayer, time of introspection, repentance and confession. And it means time with His people – like all of you. Maybe that flows naturally for you, but for me, my eagerness to get things done, my willingness to say “yes” too many times, and just general busyness can so easily squeeze quiet time with my Lord out. My opening prayer for my October is to make time for Jesus. Join me as we seek Him together. Let’s shine!

In Him and in His love,

Pastor Mike





Sunday, October 4

Tyson and Sophia Stout will speak about going to unreached people groups in the mountains of Mexico.

2nd Annual
LAUGH FOR LIFE
COMEDY. COMMUNITY. COMPASSION.
an evening that makes a difference

**FRIDAY
OCTOBER 16, 2026
7 PM**

**RHAM HIGH SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM
HEBRON, CONNECTICUT**

GROUP RATE AVAILABLE

Purchase Tickets Today!
carefamilies.org/laugh

SETH KNORR **JIM MCCUE** **GORDON DOUGLAS**

NOMADS Christmas Care Packages

Distributed to migrant workers at the camps in Abu Dhabi

Each bag contains personal care items and a salvation message
and costs \$30 to prepare

Consider donating the cost of a bag-our goal is to fund 50 bags!

(Make sure your contribution is designated
"Nomads Christmas Bags" on the check or envelope)

Questions – talk to Deb Sheehan or Cindy Brown

From the Associate Pastor's Pen

In our last Galatians passage, we read Paul charging the Galatians (and us) to walk by the Spirit. In the span of 9 verses (Gal. 5:16-25), Paul puts it four different ways – walk by the Spirit (v. 16), be led by the Spirit (v. 18), live by the Spirit, and keep in step with the Spirit (v. 25). This is a command from God's Word that applies at all times. And yet, I think it is crucial for our church family to take this pivotal moment of transition and take this command and challenge seriously. We must walk by the Spirit.

In times of change and transition, the war between our flesh and the Spirit in us is going to be ramped up. We're going to have desires in these moments that are of the Spirit, and some that are not of the Spirit. For instance, some of us really want to be in this new building. We're tired of all the extra work and finagling having church at the school entails. We're excited to have control over our schedule and space where we do ministry. We have ideas about how our church should celebrate this new building before our town and community.

Take a moment now to think about the things you want regarding this transition to the new building. Then take an extra-long moment and honestly ask the Lord – is what you desire coming from His Spirit, OR is it coming from your flesh? I will point out that within Paul's list of 'works of the flesh' in Gal 5:20 is selfish ambition. One commentator made a chart where he contrasts some of the works of the flesh Paul lists here with the fruit of the Spirit that I will paste below:

“Acts of hatred vs. Love (and joy)

Discord vs. Peace

Anger (quick temper) vs. Patience

Fits of rage vs. Acts of kindness

Acts of selfish ambition vs. Acts of generosity

Dissensions leading to factions vs. Faithfulness to others

Acts of envy vs. Acts of considerateness”

I find this chart to be a helpful tool to pray through with the Spirit, asking Him to reveal to me whether the desires I have are from Him or from my flesh. Taking a hard look at my life, am I being a selfish, mean-spirited and out-of-control person? Or am I others-directed, community-spirited and living with peace and self-control?

A major warning sign that you might be indulging your flesh is the state of relationships in your life. The flesh destroys relationships. The Spirit heals and grows. How's your marriage? Your relationship with your kids? How's your relationship with your friends? Your co-workers? How about with those you do ministry with in our church? Are there people you avoid or have tension with in our church? Why? What might the Spirit be asking you to do about it?

I'll leave you with the charge of Scripture again – keep in step with the Spirit. And for some extra encouragement and help, here's how Paul would expound on life in the Spirit in Romans chapter 8. Read this carefully and prayerfully. Commit it to memory. You have the Spirit of God living in you! Set your mind on Him and His desires, not your own, and let Him crucify your flesh, and lead you into life and peace!

“⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so.

⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the flesh, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the

flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.” (Romans 8:5-17)

Love y’all!
Pastor Evan

PUMPKIN CARVING!
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026
2:00 – 3:30 PM
Eastford Elementary School Gym

FREE EVENT!
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED



PUMPKINS & SUPPLIES PROVIDED
FOR ALL AGES!

Register at:
www.cceastford.org/events

This free, community-wide event is sponsored by The Congregational Church of Eastford

CCE OUTREACH

Our Outreach Team focuses on reaching folks physically close to us, but spiritually far from The Lord. We strive to build relationships with the people in our surrounding communities, so that we may have opportunities to share the Good News and love of Jesus Christ with them. 😊

We are supporting Eastford Elementary School students this school year with the following activities.

- ♥ Providing volunteers to play board games after school with students two Wednesdays each month.
- ♥ Providing an after-school craft (all supplies and volunteers) one Wednesday each month.
- ♥ Providing supplies and volunteers to help the students build and launch model rockets in the spring.
- ♥ Providing supplies and volunteers to help the students build blue bird boxes.
- ♥ Other activities as The Lord leads us.

We are **very** blessed to have this wonderful relationship with the school!!

On October 18, 2:00-3:30 PM, we will host our Pumpkin Carving event in the EES gym. This is a free, communities-wide event. We provide pumpkins and carving tools and refreshments (Buell's Orchard apple cider and apple cider donuts – Yum!). This is a fun and simple event to meet new folks in our communities and build on current relationships.

We will be helping the Eastford Town Recreation Commission with their upcoming events.

- ❖ Trunk or Treat, October 31, 6:30-7:30PM, vehicle set up at 6:00PM.
- ❖ Cookies and Cocoa with Santa, specific date/time TBD, but it is typically the first or second Saturday of December.

We help and support the Town Rec Commission as part of our mission to bless those around us with the love of Jesus. By taking part in these Town events, we get to know the folks in the community in which The Lord has planted our Church body – us! Also, many folks from the surrounding communities attend Eastford events.

So, you can see that we have a lot of opportunities to share the love of Jesus with and bless our communities! You are encouraged to take part in any (all!) of these.

If you would like to help with after-school games or crafts, or have ideas for crafts, or have ideas for other outreach activities/events, PLEASE let us know!! We are always in need of help and WELCOME ideas and new team members!!

Blessings,
Outreach Team

Allison Gormley, Outreach Deacon
Rachel Budd, After School Activities Volunteer Coordinator
Seth Budd
Johanna Wolfe
Eileen Geriak

Missions Update

For links to all our supported missions and missionaries plus their most recent newsletters and updates, go to the CCE Website, click on “About Us,” then click on “Missions We Support.”

Martin and Ruth Ghent are preparing for fall events, teaching classes and planning for the 50 or so kids and youth who show up for weekly activities. God is speaking to individual members of the community. One man has asked to be baptized after attending Sunday services for two years. He and one other are completing baptismal prep. A junior high school boy who went to both spring and summer camp expressed an interest in reading the bible. Bibles were given to him, his mother and his younger brother and they are not only reading them but are coming to church regularly.

Nomads - Every year at Christmas time Nomads provide care packages of personal hygiene items and salvation messages for the men in the labor camps. The cost of a care package is \$30.00. During the month of October, CCE will be collecting monetary contributions for this amazing and vital ministry. Please consider blessing these men who desperately need to know God's love and grace!

Caring Families (ChloeCare) – The 2nd Annual Laugh for Life Comedy Night will be held Friday October 16, 2026 at RHAM High School in Hebron. This is an evening of clean, family-friendly comedy featuring local talent you know and love, plus three professional comedians. All to support the life-affirming work of Caring Families.

Gideons, Eastern CT – 1,303 bibles were passed out on the UCONN campus on September 14th!

Jen McCormick (UW Sports Ministry) – Jen and James are enjoying home time and serving in Kids Ministry at their church. The UW leadership team is already looking forward to the 2027 camp season, reviewing curriculum, the theme will be “The Great Comeback.” The team has also been working on a fundraising campaign for the ministry. UW Ministry is excited for what God will do in and through the ministry in the next year!

His Mansion – Harvest season is underway, the gardens and canning rooms are busy with staff, residents and Servant Leaders working together to pick and process the vegetables that were cultivated this year. The produce grown on The Hill supplies both His Mansion and the community with a fresh nutritious food source for the winter, a tangible expression of God's provision and the growth He gives. God is also giving growth in the lives of the men and women in the programs as the seeds of the Gospel flourish in their hearts.

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.



Surviving the Holidays Seminar

Thursday
November 19, 2026
5:30 – 7:30 pm

www.cceastford.org/griefshare/

Congregational Church of Eastford
54 John Perry Rd, Eastford

Worship – Guitar Course

Earlier in the summer, a group of worship leaders met to brainstorm ways to bolster the number of people who can serve in worship ministry, specifically leading musical worship. The first program to come out of the brainstorm is a guitar class designed as an intro course to playing and leading worship. The instructor for the course is Shaun Tucker, Associate Pastor and worship leader at Green Valley Crossing in Putnam. He says:

"Join us Tuesday nights this October and November for a hands-on guitar course designed to help you learn the fundamentals, build confidence, and discover how to use the guitar to worship and serve at church. You don't need to be an experienced musician. You just need a willingness to learn and a desire to play. Over the course of these weeks, we'll work through the basics of guitar, learn practical skills and chords, and begin putting it all together through songs you can actually play."

Tuesday Nights | 6:00–7:15 PM October & November
Green Valley Crossing
75 Railroad St, Putnam, CT 06255

Open to anyone middle school age and up. The cost of the course is \$50.

If you would like to participate and do not own a guitar, please Christian Wolfe (Worship Deacon) know. If you have any questions, please contact Shaun or me. Christian.Wolfe92@gmail.com; shaun@gvc.church



Communion Servers

Are you willing/interested in serving Communion?
Contact Johanna Wolfe at rjwolfe808@gmail.com
or by texting 401-992-4134.

DivorceCare

We welcome anyone who is working through separation or divorce to join us for a one-time session called **Surviving the Holidays**. It is not unusual for people in this situation to struggle with issues around meeting with friends and or family around Thanksgiving or Christmas. This session will give one an opportunity to work through some of the issues surrounding those difficult times. Come join us for support from our facilitators Sunday, November 22 from 4-6 p.m. We will be meeting in our new church building, 54 John Perry Road, Eastford.

Surviving the Holidays

Divorced? Separated?

Know someone who is?

When a marriage ends, the holiday season can be especially painful. Our Surviving the Holidays seminar helps participants face challenges and discover:

- How to deal with emotions
- Helpful tips to surviving social events
- Ways to help children through the holidays
- Hope for the future

Join us for this encouraging seminar

Congregational Church of Eastford
54 John Perry Road, Eastford, CT

November 22, 2026 from 4 – 6 PM

For more information visit
www.cceastford.org/divorcecare/

DivorceCare

Surviving the Holidays

November 22, 2026
4 – 6 PM

**Congregational
Church of Eastford**
54 John Perry Rd
Eastford, CT

Family Music

Our church is offering music classes for parents/caregivers and children under 3 years on **Mondays from 10-10:30 a.m. in the nursery of the new building when it is ready.** This change of day is to facilitate a transition to new leadership.

The weekly class is an ongoing class that works on music and movement. We spend a lot of time singing, playing rhythm instruments, and moving to the music. Parents are requested to participate actively with their children.

For children over the age of 3, there is a class from 10:30-11, also in the nursery. This class is without parents/caregivers with a few minutes at the end of the class for the children to share what they have learned for the day. During the course of the classes, the children will not only have experiences that reinforce much of what they have learned in the younger class but also expand their musical knowledge beginning to identify certain rhythms, to match pitch, to learn more complex songs and experience focused listening. All these are designed to reinforce musical concepts, but to also aid in other areas of a child's development.

Please note: These are not drop-in classes, rather they are sequentially built to provide the best early childhood music education.



Congregational Church of Eastford's

Free Family Music Classes

Family Music (Birth – 3 w/ caregiver)

Music for 3+

Call/text Sue Leavitt 860-836-0394

to be notified of next session.

Women's Ministry

Tuesday AM study will be taking the 6th and 13th off. On the 20th we are starting a new study by Priscilla Shirer called "Gideon. Your weakness. God's Strength."

From the back of the study guide: GOD CAN USE YOUR WEAKNESS

Do you feel overwhelmed? Intimidated? Insufficient? Too old? Too young? Too afraid? Gideon's story involves more than a wet fleece and a battle won with 300 soldiers. His epic victory actually tells of one man's struggle with his own weakness, and the One True God who transformed it into triumph.

So if you've ever struggled with insecurity or had trouble accepting your limitations, this study will help you see how God can use your weakness to unlock His strength. Yes, Gideon can attest--weakness is a gift. Join Priscilla for a Bible study that will open your eyes to a brand new perspective on yourself, your God, and--GIDEON.

Terri will be ordering Study Guides on the 8th. If we don't have enough for the group rate, it will be \$25 per book, \$23 if we do. So let Terri know if you would like to attend!! We'd love to have you!

We meet Tuesday at 8:30 am at Terri Warren's home until the church is ready. 99 Mill Bridge Road, Eastford

The Tuesday PM group will be working through Gideon also. We will be meeting at Lisa Kellermann's home during October--unless we get into the church before then! 9 Lake Drive, Eastford at 6:30 PM

On October 6, we will be watching the video for session 4. It's not too late to join us!! We won't let you be lost!

CRAFT NIGHT

Each month we get together and enjoy "crafting" together. Good Christian company while you work!! Sometimes we have a "featured" project and sometimes we just bring our own works in progress.

Have something you would like to learn, ask Terri if she knows anyone who could teach us!

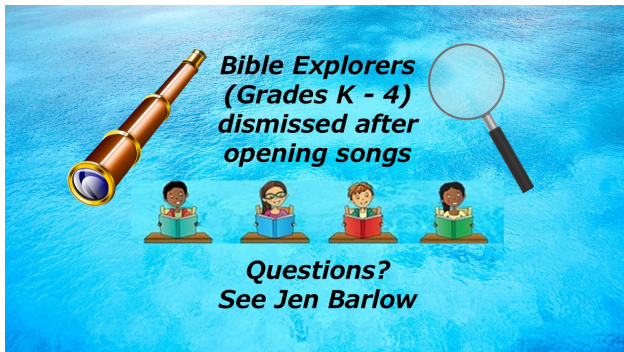
In September, 10 of us were involved in making pillowcases for "Ryan's Case for Smiles," a non-profit group that gives bright colored, fun pillowcases to children in the hospital. They had a goal of 40,000 for Sept. We were able to make and deliver 38 of them! Watch next month to see if they made it!! Thanks to all who contributed time, fabric, monetary donations and gas!

**Starting in October, Craft Night will switch to the 3rd Thursday of each month.
6-8 pm at Terri home, 99 Mill Bridge Road, Eastford.**

Not a member of the CCE Women's Ministry facebook page? Contact Terri and she'll get you set up. Don't have Facebook? An email is sent to all who wish to receive one...again...just let Terri know. Terri's contact info: 860-576-0882, trwarren2366@gmail.com



4	James B, Kiersten M, Georgia B, Ian M (door)
11	Karen J, Linnea B, Porter B, Dot C (door)
18	Casey J, Johnny B, David B, Annie B (door)
25	Jean B, Faye L, Natallia K, James B (door)



4	Josh B, Jillian V, Jericho H
11	Matt and Katie C, Deb T, Mia C
18	Linnea B, Abigail B, Porter B
25	Marissa and Dario C, 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.

Youth Group

10/1 - First REVERB deadline \$30 tickets (*ask Laura if there was an extension on this*)

10/4 - Rooted Youth Group 2-3:30 at EBC

10/11- NO Youth Group (Columbus Day weekend, have fun at Buell's!)

10/18 - Rooted Youth Group 2-3:30 tbd (*Note: Pumpkin Carving event at EES*)

10/25 - Rooted Youth Group 2-4 **Fall Pumpkin Party!** Ben & Laura's House: 12 Trepal Drive, Eastford

11/1 - Second REVERB deadline \$45 tickets

Laura and Ben Barlow designbylb@gmail.com
989-280-1539

Kids' Club
Sundays 2:00 – 3:30 PM
October 4, 11
Meeting at Eastford Baptist Church
Family Activity Center
133 Union Road, Eastford