Church News

The Congregational Church of Eastford

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

November 2026

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CARE NOTE:

"MAY GRACE AND PEACE BE MULTIPLIED TO YOU"

I PETER 1:2

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



NOVEMBER

	✔	Ezekiel	✔	Psalm
1	☐	20-23	☐	123-124
2	☐	24-26	☐	125-126
3	☐	27-30	☐	127
4	☐	31-34	☐	128-129
5	☐	35-38	☐	130-131
6	☐	39-42	☐	132
7	---------- *Reflection* ----------			
8	☐	43-45	☐	133-134
9	☐	46-48	☐	135
	✔	**John**	✔	**Psalm**
10	☐	1-3	☐	136
11	☐	4-6	☐	137
12	☐	7-9	☐	138
13	☐	10-12	☐	139
14	---------- *Reflection* ----------			
15	☐	13-15	☐	140
16	☐	16-18	☐	141
17	☐	19-21	☐	142
		Daniel		
18	☐	1-3	☐	143
19	☐	4-6	☐	144
20	☐	7-9	☐	145
21	---------- *Reflection* ----------			
22	☐	10-12	☐	146
		1 Thess.		
23	☐	1-2	☐	147
24	☐	3-5	☐	148
25	☐	**Joel**	☐	149
		Micah		
26	☐	1-3	☐	150
				Isaiah
27	☐	4-5	☐	40
28	☐	6-7	☐	41

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!

I am excited about getting into our new building. As we do, it is good to come back to basics. What is "church" all about? On the day of the fire, we proclaimed that the Church is not a building. Rather, it is the people. We are the Church. Without a building, we have been fully the Church – our church – alive and well. Our worship has been rich. The Bible has been faithfully taught. We have seen growth. We have seen struggles. We have seen new life in Christ for many and have seen people drift away. We are living life as God's family and serving Jesus as His servants … without a building of our own.

Writing to the Colossian church, the apostle Paul brings us a great summary of our core work as a church, as CCE:

> Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all his energy that he powerfully works within me. (Colossians 1:28-29)

First, we proclaim Jesus. We make much of Jesus. We bring the message, the Good News, of the Kingdom of God and of our King. Jesus is, as He says, "The way, the truth and the life." In Him we have forgiveness of sins, new life, a new and beautiful destiny, and clear purpose. Foremost is to tell any and all about Him.

Second, we are to become "mature in Christ." That means we must grow up. We grow up to be like Him, to follow Him with our all and everything, to love like Him, to act like Him, to "look" like Him. Such growth is hard work. It is the work of surrender, of prayer, of confession and submission, of humility and of genuine life change. We need to receive and heed the warnings of Scripture and of others. We need to be taught to obey (Matthew 28:18-20). This requires our sacrifice of self and of time – lots of time – to be together with one another that we might grow up.

Third, we are to do these things in His power, not our own. It is Jesus' "energy" that accomplishes His work in and through His Church - and never our own. And, note this; while it is not our power, it does require our "toil" and "struggling." Living for Jesus is not some passive thing. It is not putting our trust in Him for our ultimate salvation and then sitting back in that recliner. It is hard work.

That said, the fruit is glorious! How beautiful is God's completed work in everyone among us who has a sweet testimony of meeting and receiving Jesus! How beautiful is the healed life! How beautiful is the love that only Jesus can pour into us that we may pour it out.

This is who we are and who we are to become. So, what about the new building? It is God's gift to us of a tool to proclaim Jesus and to grow to spiritual maturity. Worship, discipleship, outreach, connection – this is why we have a building. And a fine building it is. Thanks be to God for His abundance toward us!

Oh…and Thanksgiving is this month. Together, let us give Him thanks.

In Him, and serving alongside all of you,

Pastor Mike

November 1

- Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Communion Service
- Special Congregational Meeting
- Special Coffee Hour
  See Kirstin Budd if you wish to bring finger foods.





Contact Kirstin - busybudds@gmail.com or 860-942-3498

Romans 12 Life Group

Tuesday Nights starting Nov 3

Dinner 5:30 pm

Discussion 6:00 – 7:15 pm

Kids welcome

RSVP to anniececil16@gmail.com

Johnny and Annie Barlow

203 Crystal Pond Rd, Woodstock, CT

Contact Annie – anniececil16@gmail.com or 703-200-8899

From the Associate Pastor's Pen

Last week, I started reading a book that has been on my bookshelf waiting for its day. It has a great title – it's called 'The Patient Ferment of the Early Church: The Improbable Rise of Christianity in the Roman Empire' by Alan Kreider. As your pastor, I try to be consistently reading, learning, and praying through different resources. My hope is through exposing myself to these resources written by believers in different contexts, the Lord may provide a clearer vision towards what He is trying to do in and through our church. In the case of this book (and the timing of it), I think God is simply trying to just encourage me where we are right now. And so, since we together as the body and family of Christ, I would like to share this encouragement with y'all!

We are, in a few different ways, a church that has gone through a lot of change recently and are on the precipice of even more change. We lost our building. We hired a new pastor (that's me!). In the three+ years without a building, our church body has transformed. The Lord has added new believers and new members to our local church family. He has provided for us, and by all accounts our little church has thrived through the change (all thanks to our wonderful God!).

AND, three+ years is a longish time without a building. What we thought would be done this summer is still up in the air as I write this. We've desired to make plans to restart ministries and outreaches that have all been blown up due to delays. It is no surprise that there is a growing eagerness bubbling in our church. For some, it has evolved into frustration – frustration with the feeling of helplessness towards the timing, and frustration stemming from straight up impatience.

Enter the metaphor of patient fermentation. Though I'm only a couple chapters into this book, right in the intro, author Alan Kreider explains how the growth of the early church "was not susceptible to human control, and its pace could not be sped up. But in the ferment, there was a bubbling energy – a bottom-up inner life – that had immense potential." As I was reading his description, I couldn't help but relate it to our church's current situation.

Think about it. I know many of you have fermented things before. My only experience comes with a sourdough starter. There are only three ingredients to creating a successful sourdough starter – flour, water, and PATIENCE. It takes a week or so of adding equal parts water and flour in a jar for a sourdough starter to ferment and become useful for leavening bread. I wonder, how long does it take for God's people (equal parts Spirit and humans) to ferment and become useful for God's purposes?

The Spirit used this fermentation metaphor to change the way I was feeling about this waiting period that has been full of delays and unknowns and unfulfilled ministry ideas. My prayer is that the Spirit uses it to change your perspective on the waiting as well.

Let me conclude by sharing a short excerpt from this book, and a quick challenge from the gospel of Matthew. At the end of the first chapter, Kreider sums up the patient ferment of the early church this way:

"Ferment refers to the 'mysterious, bubbling life forces,' micro-organisms at work collaboratively in ways that transcend human understanding. It was not under anyone's control. It was uncoordinated, it was unpredictable, and it seemed unstoppable. The ferment was spontaneous, and it involved ordinary ingredients that at times synergized into a heady brew. The churches grew in many places, taking varied

forms. They proliferated because the faith that these fishers and hunters embodied was attractive to people who were dissatisfied with their old cultural and religious habits, who felt pushed to explore new possibilities, and who then encountered Christians who embodied a new manner of life that pulled them toward what the Christians called 'rebirth' into a new life. Surprisingly, this happened in a patient manner."

I believe we must be faithful to the work God is calling us to now, but we must not do it impatiently. Because even though this author states above that the ferment 'is not under anyone's control,' we know it is under God's control. Our call is to patiently trust Him.

Lastly, a challenge for you from the gospels. In Matthew 16, the Pharisees and Sadducees ask Jesus for a sign. Jesus responds by exposing the fact that they know how to discern the signs of the skies (in regard to weather), but cannot discern 'the signs of the times' (16:3). The only sign He will give them, He says, is the 'sign of Jonah', and they leave Him. Immediately after this, the disciples journey across the sea with Jesus, but Matthew tells us, 'they had forgotten to bring any bread' (16:5). Seemingly because of this, Jesus says to them "Watch out and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees." Naturally, this causes the disciples to wonder why Jesus just said this, and then hits them with this challenge…

"'You of little faith, why are you talking among yourselves about having no bread? [9] Do you still not understand? Don't you remember the five loaves for the five thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? [10] Or the seven loaves for the four thousand, and how many basketfuls you gathered? [11] How is it you don't understand that I was not talking to you about bread? But be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees.' [12] Then they understood that he was not telling them to guard against the yeast used in bread, but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees." -Matthew 16:8-12

May we beware of the yeast of the world, that bubbles up impatience, pride, envy and ungratefulness in our hearts. May we humbly submit to the patient ferment of Christ's leaven, and for His Spirit to show us how to be faithful to each other and our town in the waiting.

Love y'all!
In Christ,
Pastor Evan



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!!

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."

Here is the latest…

Nomads - During the month of October CCE collected monetary contributions to help Nomads provide Christmas care packages of personal hygiene items and salvation messages for the men in the labor camps. These packages are a blessing these men who desperately need to know God's love and grace! To date we have collected $210.

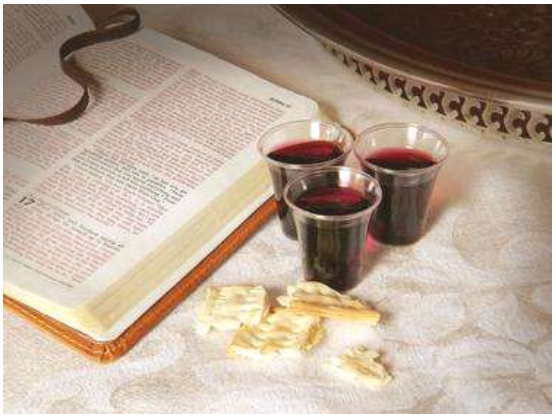
Caring Families (ChloeCare) – provides compassionate care and practical support to individuals and families facing pregnancy-related decisions and challenges. Through their center in Willimantic, CT, and the MobileCare unit, they deliver hope, help and healing throughout Eastern CT. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated - is there a specific talent or passion you'd like to share with Caring Families? From youngsters to seasoned seniors, we believe everyone has a unique gift to offer to others, and we welcome yours. To see where you might be able to share your gifts with us, go to https://www.carefamilies.org/get-involved or call 860-786-1124. We'd love to have you on board!

The Baby Bottle Campaign has concluded and Caring Families thanks all the churches which partnered in this fundraising effort. Proceeds allow outreach and programs to continue. CCE generously gave $3,287.46, an increase of over $1,000 from last year! Thanks to all who scoured their couches, cars and piggy banks for change to fill the bottles!

Jen McCormick (UW Sports Ministry) – At UW Sports Ministry, fall is a season of preparation as the leadership team looks ahead to another year of ministry. They are evaluating this past summer, planning future camps, developing resources, connecting with churches, and preparing summer missionaries for what is ahead. Just as a farmer prepares the ground before the next season of growth, much of what happens at UW in the fall is preparation for the ministry God will allow us to do in the coming year. Jen and the team are grateful for the opportunity to prepare well and trust God with what He will do through it.

His Mansion – Current projects are underway including renovations to the men's dorm and the final stage of the pavilion area. Praise God for His provisions to the His Mansion campus. Pray that these spaces will be formational and reflect the generous heart of God to those who step into them.

His Mansion's servant leader program is looking for folks who are led to lead and serve those in recovery from addiction. Participating in this program will shape you through spiritual formation, intentional community, relational development, experiential learning and leadership training. The one-year program includes a monthly stipend and room and board. For more information, check out this link https://www.hismansion.com/servant-leader-program/



Communion Servers

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



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

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. Please sign up at https://cceastford.org/griefshare/





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.



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 plan to meet in our new church building if it's ready (54 John Perry Road, Eastford) so visit https://cceastford.org/divorcecare/ for location and to sign up.



Missionary Dessert with Matt (and Grace) Ricci

Nov 5 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM

They share the good news in difficult places. We are invited to go see Matt next week and get an update on what God is doing. Consider yourselves invited! Meeting will be at Youth Building next to Calvary Chapel Canterbury, 175 Westminster Road, Canterbury, CT 06331. Feel free to bring a dessert to share.

DAY KIMBALL HEALTH AT HOME

Please join us for a **FREE** presentation:

Fall Prevention in our Quiet Corner!

- Learn how to identify your personal risk factors for a fall.
- Learn self-help strategies to reduce your risk of falling.
- Learn how to get the help you need to stay Independent!

Program Date: Thursday, November 5th, 10am – 11am

Location: Eastford Town Office Building (lower level)

Please sign-up soon, space is limited!
Email or call to register:
emily.john@eastfordct.gov
860-974-0133 x3

This informative program will help you stay Safe & Independent!

Support provided by Senior Resources Agency on Aging with Title III funds made available under the Older Americans Act.

Senior Resources AGENCY ON AGING

Adult Caregivers of Aging Loved Ones (ACOALO)

Please note this meeting will be a week early in November!

November 5, 2026
7:00 PM
Eastford Public Library

Women's Ministry

The Tuesday AM and PM Bible studies are continuing their study of Priscilla Shirer's "Gideon: Your Weakness, God's Strength."

Tuesday AM Group

- Status: Just started in October, so it is a great time to join!
- Time: 8:30 AM
- Location: We are meeting in different homes until we can transition to the church building. Please let Terri Warren know if you would like to be added to the Monday email list for the weekly location details.

Tuesday PM Group

- Status: We are well into the study with about 7 weeks remaining, but please don't hesitate to join us—we will gladly help you catch up!
- Time: 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM
- Location: Lisa Kellermann's home (9 Lake Drive, Eastford) until the church is ready.

A special craft night is in the works!!! November 14th we will be hosting some International Students from UCONN. The plan is to have them sit alongside Christian sisters and do a craft. Details will be worked out at the end of October between Ruth Hartunian-Alumbaugh and Terri Warren. Space will be limited so if you want up-to-the-minute updates, let Terri know you are interested. Specifics will be sent out as soon as possible. Let Terri know if you are even "just thinking" about coming.

Our "regular" craft night will be November 19th this month at Terri's house. Stay tuned for more details.

Please reach out if you have any questions or would like to join any of the above groups.

Contact Terri if you wish to join the CCE Women's Ministry Facebook page or receive women's ministry emails. 860-576-0882, trwarren2366@gmail.com

New Life Church has invited our ladies to attend a special gathering on December 5. Save the Date!!!





1	Abigail B, Rachel B, Natallia K, Casey J (door)
8	Kirstin B, Annie B, David B, Johnny B (door)
15	Casey J, Dot C, Porter B, Faye L (door)
22	Karen J, James B, Mia C, Ian M (door)
29	Kiersten M, Lindsay B, Georgia B, Eric B (door)



1	Jen B, Jillian V, Jericho H
8	Marissa and Dario C, Chelsey B, Georgia B
15	Matt and Katie C, Josh J, David B
22	Linnea B, Abigail B, Porter B
29	Josh B, Jillian V, Jericho H



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.

Kids' Club
Sundays 2:00 – 3:30 PM
Until we're in the new building
Meeting at Eastford Baptist Church
Family Activity Center
133 Union Road, Eastford

Youth Group

11/1 - Second REVERB deadline $45 tickets
Laura and Ben Barlow designbylb@gmail.com
989-280-1539

11/1 – Rooted Youth Group 2-3:30 EBC

11/8 – Rooted Youth Group 2-3:30 tbd

11/15 – No Youth Group **(REVERB weekend**, $55 Tickets)

11/22 – Rooted Youth Group Thanksgiving 2 - 4
Ben & Laura's House: 12 Trepal Drive, Eastford

11/29 – No Youth Group (Thanksgiving weekend)