

West Fairlee Center Church

Dear Church Member,

Greetings from West Fairlee Center! Please join us for the bi-annual meeting of the West Fairlee Center Congregation Church, to be held at 7:00 pm on Thursday October 13th at my house, 3831 Middlebrook Road.

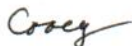
The church is looking splendid, and now that I am living next to it full time, I have become aware of how many people are delighted and heartened to see that freshly painted facade ahead of them as they come up the road. If they stop to talk, I am always proud to point out that we have been able to get that job done, even with our very tiny congregation.

The exterior looks great, and the structure is now sound, due in part to dedicated work by our treasurer, but we still have a way to go on the interior and also, even more importantly, on building up our congregation. Organizing and funding will be on our agenda for this meeting; and so will a host of other issues, from the mundane (taxes and insurance) to the not-so-mundane (guidance and planning for the future). Above all, however, we will be praying for guidance on where to go from here.

Let me add just a personal note on all of this: I think we are all aware of our dwindling congregation, and we know that there are many factors at work here, from straight demographics to the fact that Christians in general have not always fulfilled their call to inclusive love and charity, in the past or in the present. Let us be reminded, however, that this church is important not only to us but to many, and important in a variety of ways. Clearly we need to find a way forward that will reflect that importance, a way that extends beyond formal affiliations and creeds, through these, too, have their place.

The agenda is on the reverse side of this letter and can be brought to the meeting as a guide. Please come and give us your wisdom. If you can't make it, but have thoughts or ideas or even just observations about the church, don't hesitate to give me a call or email. I'll do my best to represent your views at the meeting.

Best



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