

## **First Congregational Church of Woodstock**

### **Bedrock Belief Statement**

#### **God's Presence/Being**

We believe in the living God. God is always working in our lives; in everything and everywhere. There is no place that God is not. Nothing can separate us from the unconditional love of God.

#### **God Reveals God's Self**

We believe the God of love and forgiveness reveals God's self in infinite ways (the beauty of nature, service to others, prayer, music, sacred spaces to name just a few). God is revealed most fully in Jesus Christ, who gives us the vision of what God is calling us to do. Jesus is our role model and teacher who is in all of us and is one of us.

#### **Our Being**

We believe that each of us is a beautiful creation, a vessel of God's spirit. We have each been given gifts and are asked to use our gifts to reflect God's love out into the world. We are called to be intentionally aware of the divine presence in our lives.

#### **Relationship / Connection with others (in and out of church)**

We believe that Jesus showed us what a life full of God looks like and that we are called to create and develop authentic relationships with others. Community encourages and challenges us to grow beyond our limited experiences and understandings as we listen, learn, and serve in ways that we cannot do on our own.

#### **Church Community / Purpose**

We believe that our church community renews and restores us. As Jesus taught us, our community of faith cares for one another, looks out for one another, and is a place where we can see the face of God in others.

#### **Inclusivity and Openness**

We believe that God is too big for only one way. We are accepting of the ways, ideas, and experiences of others.