

# THE PARISHIONER DECEMBER 2021

**THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, WOODBRIDGE, CT *since 1738***

An Open, Welcoming, and Affirming Church

**Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.**

Telephone: (203) 389-2119 Fax: (203) 389-2110 Email: [office@uccw.org](mailto:office@uccw.org)

**Website: [www.uccw.org](http://www.uccw.org)** CT Conference Website: [www.ctucc.org](http://www.ctucc.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/uccwoodbridge](https://www.facebook.com/uccwoodbridge)

## December 2021 Council Report

The November meeting of the Council was held in the Parish House on the seventh after the worship service. This time and place have seen the attendance of more guests who can observe and participate in the meeting. We will continue with this time until the return to daylight savings time.



### Highlights of the Meeting:

- \* Treasurer's Report: Year-to-date expenses are \$19,901 less than budgeted and doing well. Treasurer Kit Engstrom will be resigning as of the January Congregational Meeting. Nominating Committee will be seeking a nominee for this position.
- \* The draft letter from Stewardship's Committee Chair, Scott Hunter, was reviewed with suggested additions. The letter was to be mailed after Scott's review.
- \* Personnel Committee report dealt with what FCCW was going to be doing about the Christian Education program for children and adults. Covid restrictions are still a factor, however, there was much interest and discussion regarding this program and the need to plan for and restart it. Questions about the Stocking Project were raised. (Comment Note: The Moderator contacted Donna Taylor who had previously coordinated this program. She came in the following week, organized it and Stocking Bags are now available for pickup in the Parish House Meeting Hall.)
- \* Search & Renewal reported that a letter had been mailed to introduce the new Interim Minister, the Reverend Susan Murtha, who will be assuming her duties as of February 1, 2022.
- \* Christian Service has made five donations to nonprofit organizations. Their budget has been expended for the year. A request has come from Amy Lan to this Committee as to what we, at FCCW, are doing regarding Afghanistan refugees who are coming to Connecticut. There was an approved motion to form an Ad Hoc FCCW Committee to decide FCCW's role and participation with this matter.
- \* The Boy Scouts continue to be very active and have added three new scouts to their membership. The Troop will assist with the upcoming FCCW Trimming Bee.
- \* Building & Grounds reported that the Parish House ladies' room is to be repainted and repaired with new and improved fixtures and flooring. The restoration of the Meetinghouse Sanctuary is progressing with estimates being received for wall painting. Scaffolding will be removed in mid-December in time for Christmas services and decorating. The organ will also be available for playing.
- \* The Monetization Committee is awaiting times to meet with town officials, regarding proposed planning efforts.
- \* Deacons reported that the Trimming Bee will be held on Saturday, December 4, and questions regarding the project should be directed to them. They are also developing a call list of parishioners who might wish to be visited or called. The Poinsettias Program will also be held this year.

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**Moderator's Comments:** Please contact the office regarding information concerning the Trimming Bee on December 4. We will have a Christmas Eve Service this year, so please plan on attending. Stocking Project Bags are available in the Parish House Meeting Hall. Please stop by and pick up a bag for a child who might not otherwise receive Christmas presents.

Stewardship has sent out 2022 pledge cards. Please take a few moments to complete your card and return it in the attached envelope. FCCW needs your participation to continue financial support of this church's life and mission to our community. We, at FCCW, are looking forward in 2022 to a brand-new chapter in this church's life: A new Interim Minister to lead us as we decide on the future course and life of this church. We who have had a past or present interest or involvement in the life and mission of this church will have a chance to have a role in deciding its future course, with the guidance and leadership of Rev. Susan Murtha. It will be a happy new year, I am sure. Please get involved!

Respectfully, Richard A. Prescott, Moderator



### **Pastoral Coverage**

Interim Pastoral coverage is currently being provided by the  
**Reverend Janice Touloukian.**

Reverend Touloukian is an experienced minister regarding personal matters  
and supporting those in need of pastoral advice.

She can be reached  
by telephone 203-387-4991  
by email: [jantouloukian@gmail.com](mailto:jantouloukian@gmail.com)

### **FCCW Trimming Bee and Tree Lighting**



**Save the Date: Saturday December 4, 2021**

**Time: 2pm-6pm**

Help us Deck the Halls!

If you would like to donate greens, please contact Jesse Hubbard: [jwinhubb@gmail.com](mailto:jwinhubb@gmail.com)

No Hemlock please!

Greens Needed: yew, spruce, juniper (red cedar), holly, pine and fir.

There will be a potluck dinner immediately following the trimming bee in the Parish Hall. Please contact Nancy Dickgiesser with any questions.

Once the wreaths have been made, we will gather outside for a few Christmas Carols as we light the tree on the green.



## SANCTUARY UPDATE NOVEMBER 19, 2021

The decorative work on the ceiling and north wall continues 'on schedule' and Canning expects to have their work completed by the week of December 6. Soon after, the scaffolding will be removed from the sanctuary and the organ will be re-assembled and tuned. By mid-December you will be able to view the ceiling from your pew. In the meantime, photographs of the restored ceiling rosette and beautiful décor can be viewed at [www.uccw.org](http://www.uccw.org).

The Sanctuary Fund Phase One target of \$150K has not yet been met and currently stands at \$139,287.45. The final 2021 payment to Canning is due November 30. If you have not donated and would like to do so, please bring/send your designated Sanctuary Fund gift to the church office.

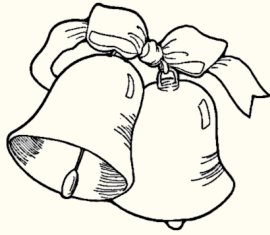
Once the Phase One completion report, photos and paid invoices are submitted to the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO), they will send the FCCW the \$100K grant payment and they will permit an application for Phase Two of the decorative work to be made. Phase Two will complete the sanctuary decorative repainting project.

### Quote of the month:

"The meetinghouse's interior is not an ordinary space. It is modestly and elegantly ornamented in a way that is completely in keeping with the character of the church as I have known it since 1956."







## BOARD OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE NEWS

Two of the non-profits that recently received donations are described below:



### FIRST: THE WOODBRIDGE RESIDENT ASSISTANT FUND

This fund is an updated version of the former Food and Fuel Fund. The fund may now be used for food and fuel but also to assist residents in need with miscellaneous services that are necessary but not typically funded by outside agencies.

We received a thank you note that stated "Thank you for your generous donation....We are very grateful for community partners like you. Many thanks." Signed by the town Director of Human Services in Woodbridge.

### SECOND: COLUMBUS HOUSE ALISON CUNNINGHAM GROWTH AND INDEPENDENCE FUND

This fund helps ensure that Columbus House can continue the work of providing a safe haven and also to create new programs and acquire property to increase availability of safe, affordable housing for those they serve. It is named in honor of the former CEO of Columbus House.

They sent a thank you personally signed by the Chief Development Officer there stating (personally hand written) "thank you for all First Church does for Columbus House".



### 2021 STOCKING PROJECT

George and Donna Taylor, representing Christian Service, are working with Lieutenant Colon in nearby New Haven to provide new clothing, toys, and books for children. If you would like to bring the joy of Christmas to a child and take part in this year's "STOCKING PROJECT", please stop by the parish hall any Sunday after church or Monday through Friday from 9-2 to pick up the stocking bag. The bags are due back at the parish hall by December 12. Thank you in advance for your participation!

## BOY SCOUT TROOP #907 NOVEMBER 2021 UPDATE

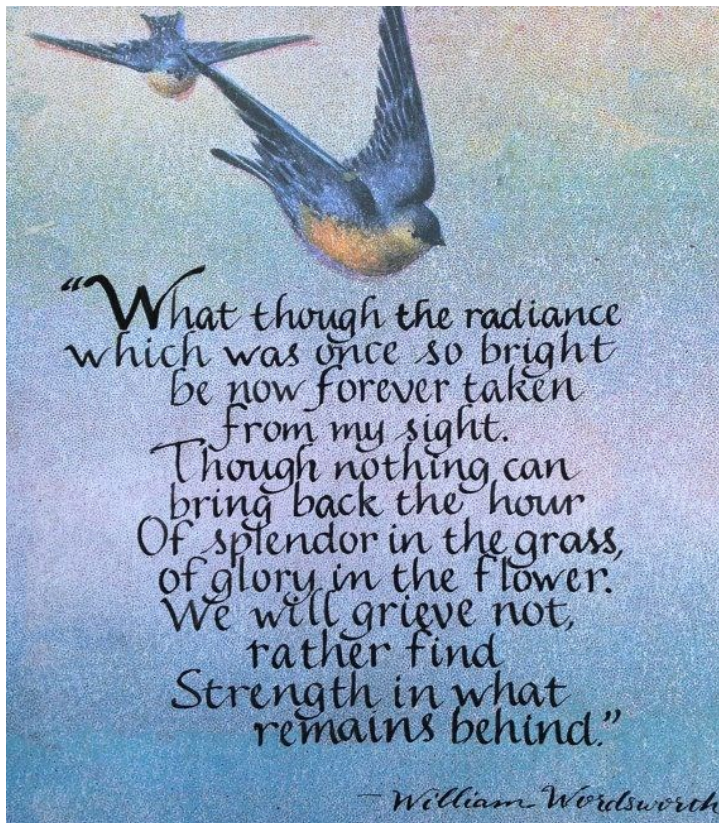
Troop 907 has grown by several scouts, and has been very active this fall. This December, the troop is planning a "Winter Freezeout Campout" December 10-12.

As always, any potential scouts of at least 11 years of age, are welcomed to join the troop! See [troop907.org](http://troop907.org) for the calendar and more information. The troop will be rechartering soon for 2022, and it is an ideal time for youth or adults to join the troop!

Yours in Scouting,  
*Richard Forselius*

Troop 907 Committee Chair and Chartered Organization Representative

For more information visit <http://www.troop907.org>  
or contact Scoutmaster Tom Luciani at [luciani33@sbcglobal.net](mailto:luciani33@sbcglobal.net) or  
Committee Chair Rich Forselius at [forselius@snet.net](mailto:forselius@snet.net)



## **December 2021**

*Services in honor of our recently deceased FCCW parishioners will be held in the Meetinghouse on the dates listed below. All are invited to attend. Please call the Parish Office with any questions.*

**A Memorial Service for our late church historian, Dr. Wilson H. Kinnach, will be held on Saturday, December 18th at 2:00 p.m. All are welcome.**

**A Service of Remembrance for the life of Jerry Langelier, will be held on Monday, December 27th at 2:00 p.m. It would have been his 106th birthday. All are welcome.**

**[WWW.UCCW.ORG](http://WWW.UCCW.ORG)**

**WEBSITE UPDATES**

### **Sanctuary Restoration - View New Photos!**

\*Thank you Joyce Simpson for continuing to submit photos to our website!  
A schedule of restoration work is also available for reading.

### **Love Our Sunday Music?**

Visit the Music page for information on Sunday music and musicians.

### **Guests and Archives**

On our "Honored Guest" page, you can find photos and brief biographies of our guest preachers, including the dates of their visit to FCCW. Click on the date to be **instantly connected** to the Worship Service!

### **Sunday Volunteers, Donations, and a Great Big "Thank You!" to All**

*Thank you to so many of you who contribute so much of yourselves each week. Volunteer today!*

### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

A lot of amazing stuff is going on at the church these days! Find out the "whats" and "whens" and learn how you can more fully experience parish life at FCCW!

### **Facebook**

FCCW Facebook page is growing in popularity! "Like" and Comment on your favorite photos and read about exciting events to come. Announcements like event/meeting date changes or postponements are posted here as well.

**\*YOUR** feedback is always welcomed, as our mission is to continue to improve! Email me if you need assistance. I look forward to your suggestions and photo/article submissions!

JoAnna Rubino      Email: [growfirstchurch@gmail.com](mailto:growfirstchurch@gmail.com)

## Calendar of Guest Ministers

Dec. 5                Rev. Hiram Brett  
Dec. 12              Rev. Karl Duetzmann  
Dec. 19              Rev. Janice Touloukian

**Dec. 24 \*Christmas Eve Service\***  
**Dec. 24 at 5:00 p.m.**  
**Lessons and Carols**  
**Rev. Walter Pitman**

Dec. 26              Rev. Raquel Irizarry  
Jan. 2                Rev. Hiram Brett  
Jan. 9                Rev. Walter Pitman  
Jan. 16              Rev. Walter Pitman  
Jan. 23              Rev. Janice Touloukian  
Jan. 30              Rev. Raquel Irizarry

### FCCW OFFICE HOURS

The office is currently open Monday - Friday,  
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### Marking Life's Passages

Griffith Shackleton Bedworth 11/22/2021

*(Please contact the office with any birth or death announcements)*

### Memorial Service Schedule

Wilson Kimnach 12/18/2021 2:00 p.m.

Jerry Langelier 12/27/2021 2:00 p.m.

### We Need Your Help!

Volunteers are needed to host coffee hour, read scripture, or sing in the choir! Visit our website or contact the office for more information.  
Thank you!

### **The Parishioner**

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06525



## ZOOM Invitations and Live Streaming

**Everyone is encouraged to gather  
at the Meetinghouse for the 10:00 a.m.  
Sunday Service!**



*All Worship Services* are live streamed on our website and on our YouTube channel.

Video recordings are available on our **website**, our **YouTube** channel, and on **Facebook**.  
(www.facebook.comuccwoodbridge)

**Please look to your email for invitations and links to these resources.**

**We will continue to use Zoom for all of our Worship Services.**



### **Submission Due Date (Don't Forget!)**

Submissions to be published in the **January 2022** issue of "The Parishioner" are **DUE BY Wednesday, December 15.**

**\*Please submit articles and photos by email.**

**If you would like assistance regarding Zoom, live stream, or website accessibility, please contact JoAnna.**

**[growfirstchurch@gmail.com](mailto:growfirstchurch@gmail.com)**

### Weekly Bible Study

All are welcome to visit our Weekly Bible Study that takes place every Wednesday morning at 10:30 a.m. Meetings are currently being held inside the Parish Hall or outside in good weather. Please visit the Bible Study page on our website for more information and a list of weekly readings.

**<https://www.uccw.org/bible-study>**



**Temp. On Call Pastor:** Rev. Janice Touloukian

**Email:** jantouloukian@gmail.com

**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Boyd M. Johnson, Jr.

**Office Administrator:** Lisa Tartaglino

**Website and Publications:** JoAnna Rubino

**Audio/Visual:** Charlotte & Emma Lindskog

***NEXT PARISHIONER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, December 15, 2021 (a firm date)***

E-mail articles and photos to: [growfirstchurch@gmail.com](mailto:growfirstchurch@gmail.com)