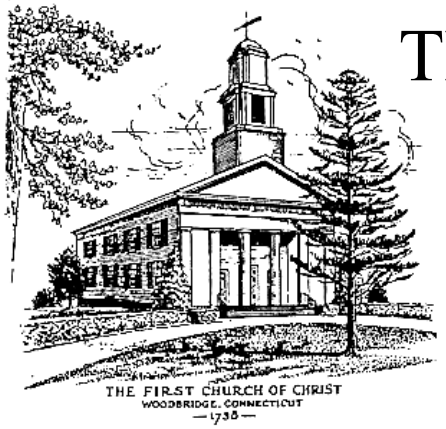


THE PARISHIONER JUNE 2021

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, WOODBRIDGE ***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
Website: www.uccw.org
CT Conference Website: www.ctucc.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/uccwoodbridge

A Letter from Church Council

May 3, 2021

The May in-person meeting was held in Parish Hall with two members participating by ZOOM. The meeting received reports from all but one Committee/Board. All reports indicated progress and positive program development in all aspects of our FCCW church life.

The Treasurer's report stated that we have, to date, received almost 75% of total 2021 pledges with income exceeding expenses by a bit over $10,000.00. Adjustments will be made when an Interim Minister is in place. Nominating Committee has prepared a slate of candidates for committees to be presented at the Annual Meeting. Positions are still vacant, however. We need more member participation. Personnel report that Lisa Tartaglino has been employed at Church Office Administrator and has thus far done an excellent job in learning her new functions and tasks. Please note: The Church Office is now open on a five day a week, five hour a day (9:00AM to 2:00 PM) basis. Thanks were given to our Personnel head, Nancy Dickgiesser, for all the time and effort in filling this position.

Search and Renewal is meeting on a weekly basis in conducting the search for an Interim Minister and to actively filling the pulpit for Sunday services. The Sunday Services have all been very good with excellent ministers leading worship. This committee is also spending a great deal of time in the process of searching for an Interim and discussing the whys and wherefores of FCCW's renewal process. They wholeheartedly seek and welcome any and all input from our membership regarding what we want and are looking for as we move forward. Call them, email them, mail them----your ideas!

FCCW's Music Director, Nenad, will be returning home at the end of May. His new contract for 2021-22 has been agreed to by him and the Board of Music. We are lucky to have him back! Trustees reported that they continue to monitor the fiscal life of the church and have reviewed pay scale needs for an Interim Minister. Their Asset Management subcommittee will be making a report at the Annual Meeting regarding what FCCW might consider in exploring use of church land for affordable housing development and beginning to plan therefore.

Funding support is needed for the Sanctuary Painting and Restoration fund. Please give serious consideration to donating money to this effort because it will enable us to move forward with this most needed and valuable project. Contact Joyce Simpson for more information.

The FCCW sponsored Boy Scout Troop earned $2700 dollars from their fund raiser. Well done, young men! They will be conducting a Court of Honor ceremony on June 17th. All FCCW members are invited. Please consider attending this impressive ceremony.

(cont.)

The Technical Committee continues to meet, plan and implement improvements in FCCW technical equipment and services life. Jesse Hubbard continues to do an outstanding job in coordinating our ZOOM and Live Streaming Sunday Worship programs.

The Moderator had a meeting with Woodbridge's First Selectwoman, Beth Heller, and staff regarding a coordinated effort for a Strawberry Festival. It was suggested that FCCW consider such an event in conjunction with the town's Second Saturday event. He will talk with Barbara Baldwin and try to coordinate a meeting with members regarding this activity. If not now, maybe something can be done in the Fall for a church-sponsored town-invited, event.

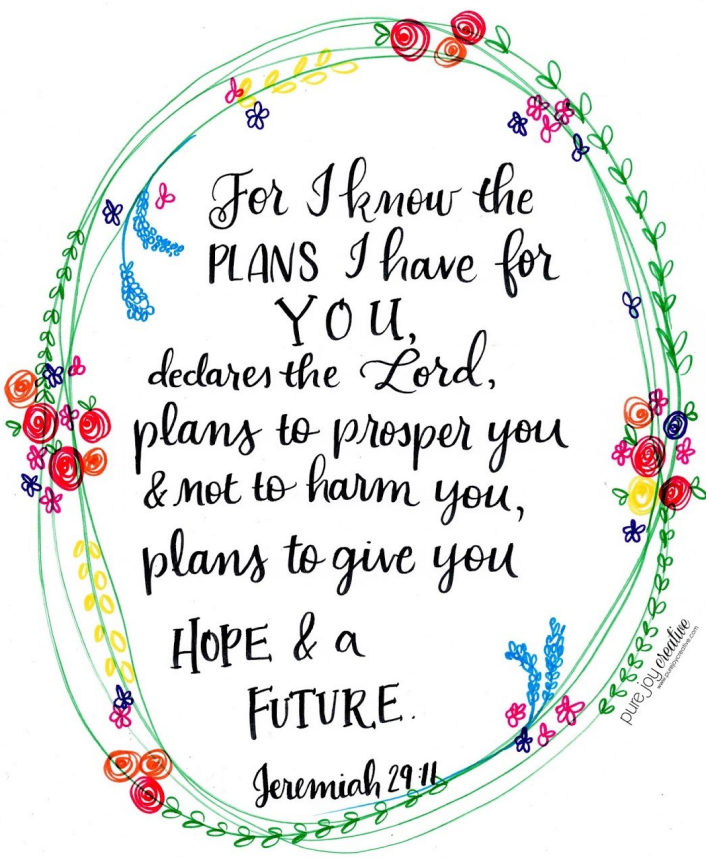
Please note: The Church office is now open, daily from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. AND all Sunday Worship services are now being conducted in person. PLEASE ----Try and attend. You don't know what you're missing! Coffee hours are also in the planning stages. Looking forward to seeing you and hearing your ideas about what you want our church to be. Time to get back and involved!

Respectfully, Richard A. Prescott, Moderator

ANNUAL REPORTS AVAILABLE

While Annual Reports have been emailed to all those for whom we have email addresses, you may desire an old fashioned "printed hard copy". If so, please call the church office and request that one be mailed to you, or if in the Center, stop at the Church and pick one up. These annual Board and Committee reports will provide you with an overview of their respective progress and accomplishments during the past year.

Respectfully, Richard A. Prescott, Moderator



PASTORAL COVERAGE

Pastoral Coverage for the month of March will be provided by the **Reverend Janice Touloukian**. Rev. Touloukian is an experienced minister regarding personal matters and supporting those in need of pastoral advice.

She can be reached by telephone at: 203-387-4991.

SANCTUARY UPDATE, APRIL 23, 2021

A church member, who wishes to remain anonymous, will contribute $15,000.00 in MATCHING FUNDS for any gifts to the Sanctuary Fund of $500.00 or greater. Donations of $1K, $3K, or $5K, for example, will be matched until the $15,000.00 match is depleted. This will provide an additional $30,000 for the Phase One work. The FCCW Sanctuary Fund currently stands at $58K and we must raise $100k to meet the State Grant matching requirements. This additional $30K will bring us ever closer to our goal. Please donate at this time if you are able to do so. And a sincere thank you to those who have already contributed to this project.

This week, the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) plan to return to us a fully executed agreement for $100K matching grant to the FCCW. It is signed by the FCCW, the DECD, and the CT Attorney General.

Canning have submitted to us a final agreement (good through July 1, 2021) for the Phase One plaster repair and repainting of the Sanctuary. The church Trustees will discuss later this month. The estimated cost remains at $249,800, but Canning will allow us to postpone the final payment of $49,800 until after the work is completed, we submit the completion report to SHPO, and receive the $100k grant funds.

If we sign the agreement, the work will be scheduled as follows: Scaffolding installed at the end of August, work to begin in September and likely be finished by late November.

B. Joyce Simpson

TROOP 907 NEWS

On the evening of Thursday, May 13th, Scouts from troop 907 placed flags on the graves of all veterans in Woodbridge cemeteries in advance of Memorial Day. Last year's flags were Removed and properly disposed of.
I am so proud of them!
Best wishes,
Richard Forselius

Spotlight on the Board of Christian Service

DOWNTOWN EVENING SOUP KITCHEN

Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen, or "DESK", is one of the organizations that we support financially. Below is a description of their current program. If anyone would like to provide additional matching contributions to this or other non-profits that the Board of Christian Service has researched and supported, contact Jinny Schneider, chair, or send a check designated to the Board of Christian Service or Downtown Evening Soup Kitchen or other charitable organization we support.

DOWNTOWN EVENING SOUP KITCHEN PROGRAM
(The website is deskct.org for more information)

Evening Meals Program
In order to avoid public gatherings of large numbers of people in an enclosed space, DESK is serving all dinners as "grab-and-go" in take-out containers or bags. We currently are serving Sunday through Thursday at 5:00 pm. We do not require any documentation or proof of eligibility or residence.

Weekly Food Pantry
DESK's weekly Food Pantry is operating during the COVID-19 crisis as pre-prepared "grab-and-go" bags. We are open every Wednesday between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. We do not require any documentation or proof of eligibility or residence. Just show up! If this time does not work, please see this online list of pantries that are operating during pandemic. If you are over 60, immuno-compromised, or have tested positive for COVID-19 in recent weeks, please consider signing up for the Pantry to Pantry Food Delivery Program (below).

Pantry to Pantry Food Delivery Program
After an extremely successful interagency effort this past spring and summer, DESK and Loaves & Fishes transferred all operations of the Pantry to Pantry program over to our partners at FISH of Greater New Haven. Please contact (203) 503-0107 for more information.

FCCW Technical Committee

First Church has established a Technical Committee to study and propose the hardware and software needs of the FCCW computer system and digital internet interfaces. The committee has been working with our computer services company, Millennium Computer Services, on several items. Millennium has added a cloud data backup system for the office computer, installed strong WiFi in the Parish House main floor and basement, and is moving our email system to a robust Microsoft Outlook service. Millennium installed WiFi in the sanctuary which is being used to Live Stream Worship services to YouTube and supports ZOOM of Sunday services. The Technical Committee is analyzing equipment to upgrade our rudimentary Live Streaming system to improve the streaming quality and to reduce the complexity of the operation.

www.uccw.org

"What's all the excitement about?!"

The FCCW website is a virtual font of resources, links, notifications, and activities! With the help of our **Facebook profile**, more visitors and parishioners have begun to rely on our site for up-to-date information and added access to various media archives. People visit uccw.org to read and enjoy the latest Parishioner, peruse past editions, and explore many new ministry-supplied additions to our blossoming nexus of online provisions and community resources.
There is *always* something new! What can you contribute? What would you like To see?

You May Not Know…..
Our Sanctuary Restoration Page is up, running, and accepting online donations! Peruse our new Sanctuary Restoration page and have access to all recorded information, documents, photos and updates.

- **Biographies** of our guest preachers musicians and are available to read on our "Honored Guests" page.
- Links to Worship Service Archives and **musical recordings** are clearly posted for your convenience.
- Our blog is a great place to **post memorials**. Offer comments of condolence and blessings.
- **This is *your* website!** Send photos, announcements, anything that you would like to see posted for all to see. Make use of the website; make it your own!

*Please email all submissions (articles, announcements, photos, prayers, and more) to JoAnna at **growfirstchurch@gmail.com**
**Constructive comments and suggestions for how our site can be improved are always welcome!*

Make a Donation to First Church of Christ in Woodbridge– *online!*
It couldn't be easier to donate online.
Here's HOW:

1. Log on to our website: **www.uccw.org**
2. Click on the word "Mission" at the top center of the home page.
3. Click on the words "Opportunity to Donate" in the blue box below.
4. Click on the option "Online", and follow payment instructions.

We accept PayPal and all major credit cards

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. All safety regulations must be followed when on the church grounds.
Copies of our safety regulations are available in the Parish Hall foyer.
Please visit the Bible Study page on our website for more information and a list of weekly readings.

https://www.uccw.org/bible-study

GUEST MINISTERS FOR UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES

For the month of June, we have the following guest ministers:

May 30 Rev. Karl Duetzmann

June 6 Rev. Walter Pitman

June 13 Rev. Martha Bays

June 20 Rev. Raquel Irizarry

June 27 Rev. Karl Duetzmann

How Do I View Sunday Service?

If you are unable to gather with us in the Meetinghouse, not to worry!
If the clock reads 11 a.m. and you've missed Sunday Service, not to worry!

All Worship Services are live streamed on our website and on our YouTube channel. Video recordings are available for viewing on our **website**, our **YouTube** channel, and on **Facebook.** (www.facebook.com/uccwoodbridge)

Please look to your email for invitations and links to these resources.
We will continue to use Zoom for all of our Worship Services.

*If you are having trouble with any of these church provided services, please email JoAnna at growfirstchurch@gmail.com

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

Submissions to be published in the **June issue** of "The Parishioner" are due by **Wednesday, June 16th.**

FCCW OFFICE HOURS

The office is currently open Monday thru Friday,
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Marking Life's Passages

The Parishioner
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The First Church of Christ,
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Temp. On Call Pastor: Rev. Janice Touloukian
Email: jantouloukian@gmail.com
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Boyd M. Johnson, Jr.
Office Manager: Lisa Tartaglino
Digital and Media Coordinator: JoAnna Rubino

NEXT PARISHIONER DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, June 16, 2021 (a firm date).
E-mail articles and photos to: growfirstchurch@gmail.com