



# THE PARISHIONER MAY 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](mailto:office@uccw.org)

Website: [www.uccw.org](http://www.uccw.org)

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

## A Letter from Church Council

The April meeting of the FCCW Church Council was the first in-person meeting in the Parish Hall in over one year. Two members were in attendance by ZOOM. A quorum was present.

The Treasurer's report showed that income continues to exceed expenses due in part to lower staff salary expenses, income from the Endowment Fund and a New Haven Foundation Grant.

Personnel reported that a new Office Administrator will be employed and in place by the end of April. The office will again be open five days a week, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Details are reported elsewhere in this Parishioner. We thanked the Personnel Committee and Nancy Dickgiesser for her time and effort in the recruitment process.

The Search and Renewal Committee continues to meet on a weekly basis and have completed internal reviews of potential candidates for the Interim Minister position. This Committee has done an excellent job in assuring that we have ministerial coverage each Sunday. They have been doing independent study as well as some work with CT UCC. They are also working on reporting their progress directly to the congregation through the Parishioner and possibly email correspondence.

The segue to the Music Committee Easter Sunday Service was a report that this service received rave reviews and accolades from the over 60 persons in attendance, forty-two in-person and eighteen Zoom links. Many thanks to the Committee for its planning and to Connie, Al, Roger, Faye, Nenad, and Inkyung, the guest violinist, for a job very well done. It was great to be back, in person, at a Sunday morning service.

Christian Service reported that they have contributed to five local organizations. The Deacon's reported that The Rev. Anya Powers will in the near future be concluding her ZOOM Sunday services. Her leading of these services has provided spiritual inspiration and support for us during this time of transition. Our warmest regards and thanks go out to her.

Trustees have continued to monitor the financial and program activities of the church. They have also been receiving regular reports from the consultant, Anna Dickerson, regarding the reorganization of the office and its operations.

Guest, Joyce Simpson, provided a detailed overview of building and grounds activities. Most time was devoted to an update on the Sanctuary restoration and repainting. Due to her efforts, FCCW has received notification from the State Historic Preservation Office of \$100,000.00 in matching funds, which has been approved with guidelines and timetables to be followed. This means that we, at FCCW, will have to successfully raise monies for the project. Details for this effort will be forthcoming. We at FCCW owe a great debt of gratitude to Joyce for her time and devotion to, and extraordinary efforts for, FCCW. (cont.)



(cont.)

The Boy Scout report dealt with their spring fundraiser for the sale of fertilizer and plants. The troop continues to grow in numbers and holds meetings in the Parish House.

A new program effort, to deal with the technical life of the church, was reported on by Nancy Dickgiesser. This matter will be dealt with by a Council-approved Technical Advisory Committee, to serve as a sub-committee to Council. They will review all technical projects, programs and plans to include the website, equipment, and anything to do with the updating of the technical component life of the church.

The Moderator requested that all boards and committees be sure to notify and clear any meeting times in the Meeting House and Parish House with the church office. The monthly meeting calendar will be kept in the office.

The Moderator received Council approval to conduct the FCCW Annual Meeting on Sunday May 16th, at the conclusion of the church service and/or at 11 a.m. Notices will be forthcoming. While there are a variety of reports which will be presented at this meeting, one of the most important, especially this year, is the Nominating Committee's report which recommends officers and members of Boards and Committees for election. Without being overly dramatic, this may be one of the most important elections in the life of FCCW! The rationale therefore is thus: As we begin to look for and recruit an Interim and then permanent Pastor, it would certainly be a good selling point, on our behalf, if FCCW had a full complement of lay board and committee members, who are standing ready to work with this person, as FCCW continues its long history of serving and meeting the many needs, spiritual and civic, of this community.

On behalf of our church, I respectfully ask that you step forward and serve on a Board or Committee, even if for only one year, while we go through this period of transition. This should only require that you give, on average, two to four hours a month, depending on the board/committee. Your participation will go a long way toward insuring that the various lives of our church's programs and activities successfully continue. We, as members and friends of FCCW, should have an obligation to ensure that FCCW's long and meaningful history in this town continues as we move to our future. Please contact the Nominating Committee chairperson, Janice Touloukian, and volunteer to serve. Thank you for giving this matter some serious thought.

Respectfully And With Warmest Regards,  
Richard A. Prescott, Moderator

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Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband, too,  
praises her. Many are the women of proven worth, but you  
have excelled them all. (Proverbs 31:28-29)

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Happy Mother's Day



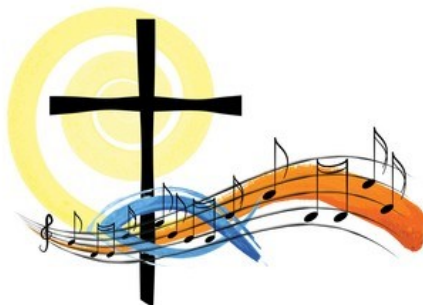
### PASTORAL COVERAGE



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.



*A "Special  
Musical Easter  
Sunday Service",  
Produced by the  
First Church of Christ's  
Music Committee*



*April 4, 2021*

*Music*

### **A Message from the Board of Music**

The Music Committee put together a special music program for the Easter Sunday service, the first official in-church service. We were blessed with Nenad and Faye playing piano and organ in a moving duet of Amazing Grace, Al and Roger sang a duet, Nenad and violinist Alison Inkyung Oh performed a duet, and our own Connie Ecklund gave a wonderful sermonette. We had over sixty people in church or watching via ZOOM. We are a committee that loves to work together, and we look forward to moving ahead with other events.

Board of Music:

Skip Borgerson, Faye Chen, Ethel Crosby, Constance Ecklund,  
Betty Fearon, Joan Rifkin and Sue Stoddard

## ~EASTER SUNDAY PHOTO GALLERY~



Constance Ecklund



**Many thanks to all  
participants in our  
Special Musical  
Easter 2021  
Worship Service!**



Al Jarvis



Nenad Iovic



Roger Calistro





Inkyung Alison Oh  
*Guest Violinist*



Nenad Iovic  
and  
Inkyung Alison Oh  
performing a  
*Duet for  
Piano and Violin*

Faye Chen  
*Music Director*

Thank you to our beloved FCCW Music Committee  
for organizing such a delightful and artfully executed  
*Musical Easter Event.*

Nenad Iovic  
*Director of Instrumental Music*



Thank you to  
our talented  
music directors  
and guest  
violinist!





**Sunday, May 16, 2021  
at 11:00 a.m.  
( in-person & via Zoom )**

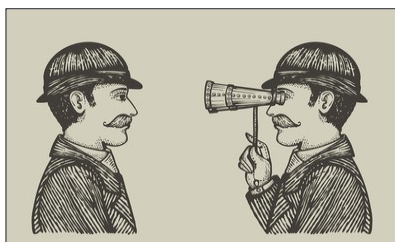
## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

The membership of The First Church of Christ,  
Woodbridge, is hereby called to the  
Annual Meeting on

**Sunday, May 16, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.**  
at the Meetinghouse, and via ZOOM, in order:

1. To elect officers, board members  
except the Board of Stewardship;
2. To elect Special Committee members;
3. To hear the Annual Reports of the  
Moderator, all boards, and others;
4. To hear and approve plans and transact any  
other business appropriate to come before the  
meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Stoddard, Clerk



## **SEARCH and RENEWAL COMMITTEE**

The Search and Renewal Committee is searching.

We are meeting weekly via Zoom.

We have successfully filled the pulpit through June so that we are able to  
offer in person services.

That is to say, everyone is welcome to come to church and worship together.

We will continue offering streaming and Zoom services for those who prefer

not to gather. We have developed a mini church profile to circulate to potential pastors. We have explored ways of finding, interviewing and assessing candidates. We are seeking a bridge minister who would help us figure out what we mean by renewal, how a renewal process happens, and if its possible for our church. Who are we? We are Roger Calistro, Jesse Hubbard, Sue Stoddard, Judi Reynolds, Rich Forselius, Penny Rogers.

We welcome your thoughts and concerns as this process moves along. It is your church. It is our church. Let's build together!

- Penny Rogers

## **Scout Troop 907 Garden Sale, a Huge Success!**



Thank you to those who  
supported this year's  
Annual Boy Scout  
Spring Flower/Fertilizer  
Garden Sale!

**Reminder:**  
New Scouts always  
welcome!







## SANCTUARY UPDATE, APRIL 23, 2021

On March 25, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to accept the \$100,000 matching funds from the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) for Phase One of the work.

David Riccio, the fine decorative arts expert and VP at Canning Company, Cheshire, Connecticut, visited with a small group of interested persons in the sanctuary on April 22nd to discuss the logistics and details of the proposed restoration work in preparation for finalizing a contract.

A Sanctuary Committee has been formed to send out letters to parishioners and friends in the wider community requesting donations to the Sanctuary Fund. One-third of the \$150,000 needed has already been received – THANK YOU SO MUCH. Raising the remaining \$100,000 will be vital to contracting with Canning to do the work sometime later this year.

Your generous donation would be most appreciated.

B. Joyce Simpson



## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE, APRIL 21, 2021

First Church of Christ Woodbridge welcomes our new Office Administrator, Lisa Marie Tartaglino. Lisa will be assuming the job of Office Administrator on Monday, April 26, 2021. Lisa will be working from 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Lisa was unanimously approved by both the Trustees of FCCW of and the FCCW Church Council. She has served as the Bookkeeper and Secretary of the Lighthouse Baptist Church in Waterbury, CT as well as an elementary teacher at the same church.

While we know that our church family will be anxious to meet Lisa, please give Lisa the time she will need to orient herself to our church office and her many duties. She will need to spend a considerable amount of time to familiarize herself with our church office and our many traditions. We would suggest that you make an appointment with her or email her for any extensive meeting or request.

If there are any questions regarding Lisa's duties in the office, please ask the Personnel Committee: Anne Marie Lindskog or Nancy Dickgiesser.

At the same time, JoAnna Rubino will be working as a Digital and Media Coordinator. She will be working 18 hours per week (remotely). Her job description involves maintaining the FCCW website, preparing the FCCW Town News article, preparing the Parishioner, Sunday Bulletin, media management (live streaming and Zoom Sunday Services) including other events such as the Strawberry Festival, Carol Sing, Arts and Music Festival, concerts and recitals from the sanctuary.

We urge patience as our church personnel changes and their jobs evolve.

With many thanks for all your hard work,

The Office Search Committee: Anne Marie Lindskog, Penny Rogers, Anna Dickerson, Nancy Dickgiesser



**An Addendum to Constance Ecklund's Easter Sermonette  
4 April 2021  
First Church of Christ - Woodbridge, CT**

Driving to Easter service where I was to deliver the sermonette on “Rolling Back the Stone,” I saw the very handsome, very large racoon which had been lying dead on Route 114 since being hit two days before. Its clean body seemed still intact except for one area where it had felt the fatal blow. My calls to the police had yielded nothing. So, imbued with my emotional visit to God in the sanctuary, I stopped on the way home, pulled over, took a large towel out of my car trunk, and with hopes God would protect against any possible rabies, I drove the poor creature back to my street. There I saw the unexpected Henry Gates, in his freshly pressed chinos, who, also coming from our service, was now picking up trash from the road—one of his frequent good Samaritan acts of kindness. He agreed at once to come to my home and help. We took out all the heavy digging tools I had, and Henry set to work. The glacial moraine of Woodbridge made boulders and heavy stones a terrible burden. Yet, Henry, kneeling in the dirt in his best white trousers, dug and rolled back the stones. I said, without thinking—“we must now cover him”—and cutting up my church Easter lily and some tulips and violets placed them over the long body. Henry took on the heavy lift again, I said a prayer, and we had a final site for our beautiful furry friend. In my sermonette I had said how the great stone of Christ's grave is everywhere, and that we must work to recognize it in that Everywhere, removing it to bring goodness where we can. As I said thank you to Henry, he did not see me cry, but the realization that we had, indeed, reprised that Mark passage was, and remains for me still, unforgettable. I had in the sanctuary told Al Jarvis and now told Henry that, when my husband John had been buried, it was Easter-tide. In my grief, and not wanting to be alone that Sunday, I had asked my gardener to come with me. When we arrived with the church flowers we discovered that the gravesite was opened, the stones and dirt having been washed away by a heavy storm the night before. My friend did not speak English well, but he knew that the tears in my eyes were real. Now, I had met the Easter story as told by Mark and by John, and on the very day our sanctuary had reopened for us all to be given grace.



Constance Ecklund

\*To listen to the original sermonette, delivered on Easter Sunday and to enjoy watching the rest of this very special musical service, please visit our website for a link to our live stream recording. More information regarding the music can be found on the music page, along with a copy of the Easter Sunday Bulletin.

[www.uccw.org](http://www.uccw.org)

# WWW.UCCW.ORG

## “What’s on there for me?”

The FCCW website is a virtual font of resources, links, notifications, and activities that continues to attract interest and open new lines of communication throughout our community.

There is always something new!

Do you know anyone who needs a prayer? Simply email your prayer request to [office@uccw.org](mailto:office@uccw.org) to have it posted online in the “Prayers Needed” section of our Community Page.

Who couldn’t use a little extra prayer these days?



## You May Not Know.....

We have an extensive **photo gallery** dating back to the Arts & Music Festival of 2019!

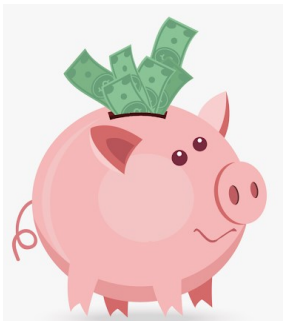
- **Biographies** of our musicians and guest preachers are available to read.
- Links to Worship Service archives and **musical recordings** are clearly posted for your convenience.
- Our blog is a great place to **post memorials**. Offer comments of condolence and blessings.
- **This is *your* website!** 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](mailto:growfirstchurch@gmail.com)

## 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](http://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 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.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 months of May and June, we have the following guest ministers:

May 2nd	Rev. Martha Bays
May 9th	Rev. Martha Bays
May 16th	Rev. Janice Touloukian
May 23rd	Raquel Izizary (4 <sup>th</sup> year M/Div MSSW at Union Theological Seminary)
May 30th	Rev. Karl Duetzmann
June 6th	Rev. Anne-Marie Zanal
June 13th	Rev. Anne-Marie Zanzal
June 20th	Raquel Izizary
June 27th	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](http://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](mailto:growfirstchurch@gmail.com)



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

Submissions to be published in the **June** issue of "The Parishioner" are due by **Wednesday, May 19th**.

## FCCW OFFICE NEWS

The office is currently open!

Hours are: **10a.m.—2p.m., Monday– Friday**

\* Please read the Personnel Article on page 6 for more information.

## Marking Life's Passages

### **The Parishioner**

Published monthly by  
The First Church of Christ,  
Woodbridge, Connecticut

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

**Email:** [jantouloukian@gmail.com](mailto: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, May 19, 2021 (a firm date).***

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