



# THE PARISHIONER

## APRIL 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)

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

### Letter from Church Council



The March FCCW Church Council met with a quorum present. The Treasurer's report indicated that the budget for the first quarter would be on the plus side with approximately 44% of 2021 pledges already collected. Coupled with lower than budgeted expenses, we should be in a positive position as we enter into the second quarter.

The Personnel Committee reported that based on recommendations from our consultant, Anna Dickerson, a new job description for the church secretary position has been completed. Plans call for the church office being open four, or maybe, five days a week for a least three hours per day. Personnel has been receiving input regarding this job description from a subcommittee appointed by the Trustees. Plans call for beginning to interview to hire someone for this job as soon as the final job description is approved by the two committees. In the meantime, final preparations are being made for volunteers to work in the office to insure that the office is opened daily and office tasks and functions maintained on a regular basis. Any questions regarding this subject or any work in the office should be directed to Nancy Dickgiesser, who has been delegated supervisory responsibility for all office staff, functions, and operations.

Jinny Schneider has been reviewing various community service programs in the area to determine which ones may be in need of Christian Service support during this coming year. The Music Committee will be planning and coordinating the Easter Sunday service this year. Their Valentine's Day service was excellent and received positive accolades. The Easter Service will be the first official in-person attendance service in almost a year. All state safety protocols will be followed. Details will be printed elsewhere in this Parishioner. Zoom and Streaming will also be available for this service.

Deacons reported that Pastoral Sunday service's coverage is in place through April. Pastoral counseling continues to be available from the Rev. Janice Touloukian. The Deacon's appointed Search and Renewal Committee met two times during February and has more meetings planned for March. Initially, they are reviewing and determining FCCW goals, functions, and future directions, before putting the actual search for an Interim Pastor in place. There are many members who do not want us to rush into hiring anyone for this position, just to say we've hired someone. The process we are into, based on all information gathered from other sources and the UCC itself, does take a great deal of time! Questions, comments, and concerns should be directed to the Search and Renewal Committee members or Jesse Hubbard. There will be regular updated reports (email or printed) from this committee to the congregation's membership.

(cont.)



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The FCCW sponsored Boy Scout troop is active and meeting and looking forward to again providing assistance to the FCCW Columbus House meal program, when it resumes. The troop will again have a Plant and Fertilizer sale. Look for details regarding this sale to be publicized soon.

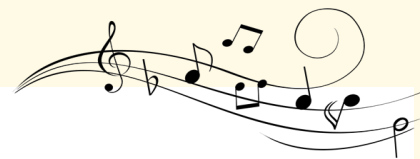
Betty Fearon is again making follow-up telephone calls in an attempt to obtain support pledges for 2021. We are behind where we were a year ago, but she has had some success. If you have not made your 2021 pledge to FCCW, PLEASE DO SO! Your financial support is needed! The confusion concerning follow-up reporting of 2020 pledge payments has been addressed and sorted out. If you have concerns and/or questions regarding your 2020 pledge, please call the church office.

Because of the growth of FCCW's use of communication's technology and the equipment to support these programs, the formation of an FCCW Technical Advisory Committee was proposed. A subcommittee was appointed with a request that a report, regarding the functions and composition of such a TAC, be presented at the next Council meeting.

Lastly, comments from the Moderator. The most oft asked questions received by him in recent weeks are: "Why isn't the Search Committee working faster?", "Why hasn't a new minister been hired?", "Why isn't the office open?", "When are we going to address the problems facing our church?" All good questions. And ALL of them are being addressed by one or more of FCCW's committees. Progress is being made. We have only been without a settled Pastor for a month and a half. We are attempting to function and plan for our future, after just beginning to overcome the malaise and operational problems stemming from the Covid pandemic. We don't just need a warm body standing in the pulpit---we need a leader who will guide us through the daily operations of our church as well as on Sunday mornings! There are many members who feel we have been down this road before, and made mistakes. There are others who don't agree with that statement. There are members who want to stay as part of the UCC and those who do not. There are many questions to be answered. Let us discuss all views and opinions. Let us take the time, please, to try our best to explore where we are and where we are going, before we act. Don't just complain or criticize to one another. Make your opinions known to your chosen committee leaders or members of the Search and Renewal Committee. At this moment in our church history, we cannot, as the old adage goes: "Act In Haste, Repent In Leisure." What we decide today will effect and impact where we are tomorrow---or if there is even a tomorrow! Think about it. Stay Positive. May God continue to guide and lead us.

Respectfully, Richard A. Prescott, Moderator





— CELEBRATE —

# EASTER

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US

**PLEASE JOIN US AT CHURCH FOR OUR EASTER SERVICE!**  
**IN-CHURCH MUSICAL SERVICE**  
**Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

This Easter there will be an IN-CHURCH service at 10:00 a.m.

The Music Committee has put together another musical service with duets given by  
Nenad and Faye, Roger and Al, and  
a piano/violin duet.

Come to hear your favorite Easter Hymns!! Though we cannot sing in the  
sanctuary at this time, at the end of the service we will all go outside to sing our  
favorite Easter hymn: “Christ The Lord Has Risen Today”!

(Please bring an umbrella if it is raining.)

What a wonderful way to welcome us all back to in-church Sunday services with this  
springtime of renewal.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Windows and doors will be open so wear warm coats.

**MASKS ARE MANDATORY.**

People will be asked to sit socially distanced.

If you are unable to attend the service in the Sanctuary, the service will be  
available by Zoom and/or live streaming. The Zoom invitation will be emailed to you  
on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>.



## FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, WOODBRIDGE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS ANNUAL REPORT MARCH 2021

The overall condition of the buildings and grounds at the church is excellent.

Over the past year of Covid shutdown, our custodian, Bob Turner, has kept up the routine cleaning and maintenance of the entire facility and has brought in special Covid supplies and directives to keep us all safe. He repaired and re-hung storm windows on the choir practice room (insulation was installed in the attic in January 2020). He deep cleaned, repainted and replaced the floor in the Parish Hall Men's Room, made repairs and repainted in the Men's and Ladies' Room in the church basement. Bob and I repainted the Parish Hall lobby (11 doors!) and recently, we spring cleaned and did some painting in the Pastor's Office.

Over the summer months, I weeded the flower beds and the shrubbed area behind the church. The mugwort was rampant, so we have asked Jim Rosson (our church landscaper) to treat that nasty invader when it pops up again in the spring.

A total of 8 shutters either fell apart or were ripped off the buildings during the winter storms. Bob was able to fix several of them (not easy) and Jeff Stauffer ordered replacements, as necessary. Bob has taken on painting and re-hanging the Parish Hall shutters. Jeff will return in the spring to re-hang the three huge shutters that Bob painted on the upper windows of the Meetinghouse as well as replace the three windowpanes that were broken.

Jack Jones led the way to updating our communications systems so that we can now live-stream and Zoom from the church. We switched our service provider to Millenium, and they have helped us with remote access and many other electronic wonders.

Over the Christmas period, Bob set up the Advent candles, window wreaths, window candles, and, with Al Jarvis, set up the Christmas creche. Jesse Hubbard and Jim Rosson repaired damage to the lights on the large Christmas tree on the Green, just in time for the Christmas stockings event. The tree remained a beacon on the Church Green each evening for three more months.

Some repairs, upkeep, and inspections, required outside professionals. The Town PW crew removed the pine tree that fell on the Green. Jim Rosson trimmed the damaged black walnut and took care of the storm clean up. At the Parsonage, the well pump was replaced and a hole in the fascia board repaired. Jeff will be back in the spring to complete the repair on a section of the Parsonage roof. Gutters were cleaned by Mr. Catalan. Two sections of heating pipe in the church basement sprung leaks and were repaired by Fred Mott. The fire extinguishers were serviced by an outside company. The extinguishers and smoke alarms are inspected annually by the Woodbridge Fire Marshall.

The next two projects at the church will be to redo the Ladies' Room in the Parish Hall, and to raise the matching funds and contract with John Canning to repaint the Meetinghouse Sanctuary. Thank you to everyone who contributed their efforts to the upkeep of our beautiful church campus over the past 200 years and currently.

B. Joyce Simpson, trustee.



Update



### Weekly Bible Study

All are welcome to visit our Weekly Bible Study that takes place every **Wednesday morning from 10:30 a.m. to 11:15 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>

## SANCTUARY REPAINTING UPDATE March 20, 2021



The church received an email and official documents from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) stating that \$100K in matching funds has been approved for the plaster repair and repainting of the FCCW church sanctuary. The trustees and the treasurer will meet on March 25th to confirm the acceptance of the funds, and to meet the requirements stipulated in the State contract. Examples of these requirements would be that the Phase One scope of work must be completed by 2023, and that a 15-year historic easement will be placed on the sanctuary, by the State, when we receive their funds. The State gives us those funds only after the Phase One work is completed, and the work approved by the SHPO.

Because we need to pay the decorative arts company, who will do the plaster repair and repainting for their work *before* the State will reimburse us, the need for financial donations from the congregation, and the wider community, will be immediate. The estimated cost for Phase One is \$220K - \$250K. Currently there is \$53,400 in the FCCW Sanctuary Fund. Thank you to those who have already contributed so generously.

The State has approved our hiring John Canning, Cheshire, to undertake this restoration project. Once the required State paperwork is in order, the FCCW will meet with Canning to further define the details of the project and, eventually, to sign a contract with them. You are invited to attend Canning meetings if you are interested in this step of the project. Phase One of the work is expected to take about four months to complete.

Please contribute the Sanctuary Fund if you are able. Thank you.

B. Joyce Simpson, trustee

### PASTOR'S OFFICE

Recently, the Pastor's Office was spring-cleaned and repainted. The office is quite elegant, but the oatmeal fitted carpet is rather plain, and the room would benefit from an area rug (any shape, but no more than 60" wide). There is also a need for a desk lamp, mirror, and/or clock.

Would anyone like to donate any of the items mentioned here? New or gently used would be acceptable. Please keep in mind that the color palette in the office is oatmeal, cranberry, pecan, and Navaho white.



### CHRISTIAN SERVICE BOARD NEWS

#### **SAFE HARBOR WARM PHONE LINE**

One of the non-profits that we support has a confidential help line that is staffed by trained staff for people who need someone to listen or for referrals in some cases. The calls are limited to 10 minutes and operate every day. The organization is Continuum of Care, which operates group homes and other services statewide for people with mental health and other challenges.

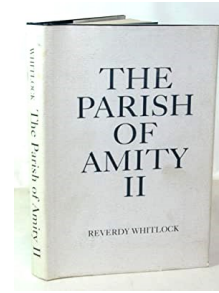
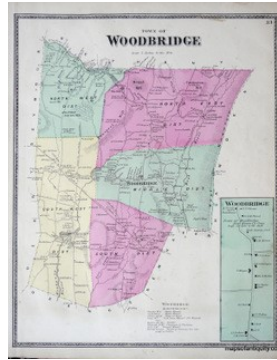
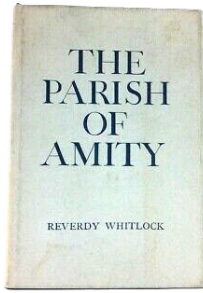
The number to call is 1-800-258-1528.

#### **MATCHING DONATIONS**

If you are interested in matching or donating to any of the agencies that the Christian Service Board has screened and contributed to, contact Jinny Schneider at [vrgnschneider@yahoo.com](mailto:vrgnschneider@yahoo.com)

# “Who Knows?”

-by Penny Rogers



## Can you answer these questions about our church?

As we begin our search for a new minister, consider for a minute who has gone before. Who were they? What qualities did each possess that they shared generously with the people of Woodbridge? Some stayed a long time, others did not. Some were considered successful. Others, we've forgotten their names. But each person preached God's word to the best of his or her ability; every person, called to serve us, reached some families and individuals in a time of need. Each added to the long line of the faithful that brings us to today.

### Who was this person?

A leader is at the head of an organization and is trusted, because of work ethic and thoughtfulness, to guide a course of action. The individual uses various methods of persuasion, logic, listening and assertiveness to achieve a desired result.

This leader had all those qualities and stayed in Woodbridge because it was a growing place. The wilderness was being pushed back and the church was shaping the life of the community. It was said that this leader was of firm constitution, a good scholar, a wise counselor. Some people questioned that he did not take the Oath of Fidelity, and yet he brought a dignity of character that made him a portrait of Christian virtues.

Let us think and pray about who might walk in those shoes as we move forward.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

From the building of the first meetinghouse, 1742 until 2021, (a period which spans 279 years), there have been three long standing and outstanding ministers who together spanned 109 of those 278 years. Name the three ministers and the years they served.

A) \_\_\_\_\_

B) \_\_\_\_\_

C) \_\_\_\_\_

### Fill In the Blanks

From 1941 to 1951 the minister of the First Church of Christ was A) \_\_\_\_\_

During that time the minister had to provide for a growing family of three children and his annual salary was B) \_\_\_\_\_.

Reluctantly he accepted a ministry in the Alameda Congregational Church in California. On August 13, 1951, a gift of \$1,500 was presented to the minister for a new car in which to drive across the country.

## ANSWERS ON PAGE 8

Submitted by Richard Jeynes, Church Historian

## Pastoral

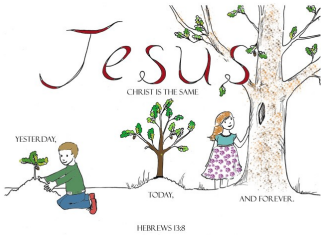


## Coverage

Pastoral Coverage for the month of April 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.

**Reverend Anya Powers** also offers her counseling services to those who may find themselves in need of advice or simply someone to listen, You are welcome to reach out to her by email. [anyamarie.powers@gmail.com](mailto:anyamarie.powers@gmail.com)

## Christian Education



As with many other ministries, it is a time of change and transition within our Sunday School and Youth Group programs. I am grateful to those who continue to be involved with their kids in our successful parade of fundraisers.

However, our numbers are few, and we could use some company! Schools have begun to open up and there is even talk of spring sports starting again soon. Children and families have been cooped up in body, mind, and spirit. Now is the time to spread the news to family and friends, that the Christian Education program is alive and actively welcoming new members. Let's open our arms and hearts to children and families that need spiritual support, now more than ever!



## Happy Birthday Audie!

Audie Paxton celebrated his **1st** birthday with his parents, Jackie Gleisner and Ryan Paxton. Happy birthday from all of us at First Church of Christ Church in Woodbridge. God bless you and your beautiful family!



# Easter Flower Dedications

## APRIL 2021

Walt and Ethel Crosby In Honor of the Crosby and Kovacs Families.

Nancy Dickgiesser and Terry Ward In Memory of their parents.

The Doolan/Eigner Family In Memory of Curtis Doolan and Edith Eigner.

Constance Cryer Ecklund In Loving Memory of John E. Ecklund, Mary Sizer Ecklund, the Cryer and Prior Families.

Richard and Elizabeth Fearon In Memory of their parents and loved ones.

Richard and Debra Forselius In Memory of our parents, our brothers, and our son.

Robin Glowa and Robert Guerra In Memory of Lucia Guerra Laski, Michael Guerra, Carmen Guerra (Sr. and Jr.), Chris Guerra and Joseph Carniglia.

Wilson and Carole Kinnach In Honor of Nenad Iovic.  
In Memory of our parents.

Carl and Annemarie Lindskog In Honor of Charlotte and Gustaf Lindskog,  
Liesel and Henry Margenau.  
In Honor of our Moderators.

Bill More and Al Jarvis In Honor of Essential Workers.  
In Memory of those who did not survive the pandemic.

Joan and Dave Rifkin In Loving Memory of Sam and Norma Rifkin, Dave and Mary Jo Brouse.





# 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.....

- Our most current (live) **Sunday Services** are playing on our website– *right now!!* Watch them at your convenience throughout the week!
- Our website continues to attract new visitors and followers from near and far! (Followers are people who explored our website and requested to be added to our email list to receive news and updates from FCCW on a regular basis.)
- **New Christian Service updates** tell about current efforts and provide multiple ways to donate.
- Our blog is a great place to post memorials, birthdays, anniversaries.
- 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!



## 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\**

## “Who Knows?”

### **ANSWERS**

#### PART I

**Answer:** Benjamin Woodbridge (1742 – 1784)

*Giving the date of 1779 when he did not accept the Oath of Fidelity would have given away the answer. He was loyal to the British law because it was the official law of our land. When independence was won, he immediately took the Oath of Fidelity to our new country. Because of his leadership the town was named for Benjamin Woodbridge.*

#### PART II

**Answers:** A) Benjamin Woodbridge 1742-1784    B) Sylvanus Pratt Marvin 1864-1904  
C) George Mclean Milne 1952 – 1979

#### PART III

**Answers:** A) Francis Randall    B) \$4000

## UPCOMING SUNDAY SERVICES FOR APRIL

Between Deacons, the Interim Search and Renewal Committee, and the Music Committee, we have come up with the April calendar for Sunday services at 10:00 a.m. All services will be on Zoom and Live Stream. *Services on April 4th and April 18th will be in-person.*

April 4th – **EASTER SUNDAY** Musical Service, guest preacher Constance Cryer Ecklund

April 11th – Rev. Anya Powers

April 18th – Rev. Karl Duetzmann, from the Devon UCC Church

April 25th – Rev. Anya Powers

### How Do I View Sunday Service?



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

1. L
2. C
3. C
4. C



### **Don't Forget!**

Submissions to be published in the May 2021 issue of The Parishioner are due by **Wednesday, April 21st.**

### Office Hours

The office is currently open **for essential business, by appointment only.**  
Email JoAnna at [office@uccw.org](mailto:office@uccw.org) to request an appointment.

### Marking Life's Passages

\*See page 7 for a birthday announcement!

#### **The Parishioner**

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***NEXT PARISHIONER DEADLINE IS WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020 (a firm date).***