

# THE PARISHIONER SEPTEMBER 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](http://www.facebook.com/uccwoodbridge)

## FCCW COUNCIL REPORT AUGUST 2021

FCCW's Church Council met, with a quorum, on the first Monday of August in the Parish Hall. One person was in attendance by ZOOM. We continue to see positive growth and progress in the planning and implementation of various church projects and programs.

The Treasurer's report indicated that we have slightly over \$76,000 cash on hand for church operations. The line item for Wages and Salaries is below budget with June overall income and expenses about equal. Building and Grounds budget is slightly above budget due to some insurance payments. All-in-all, we are in good financial condition.

Search and Renewal reported that they have met with five prospective candidates with one returning for a second interview. We have not received many candidates from the UCC because there is not a large pool of UCC candidates at the moment and there are many churches looking for ministers at this time. Thought is being given to considering a search for a settled Pastor as opposed to an Interim. The committee continues to meet on a regular, weekly basis.

The Monetization Ad-Hoc Committee reports that they are continuing to seek input and advise from other organizations which have had experience with developing projects in low-income housing and leasing of property to non-profit charity groups. Plans call for a meeting with Woodbridge Town officials to determine if they have ideas and interest regarding non-profit groups in town renting empty Parish House space. This committee is very active in reviewing various avenues which might be pursued to determine how some of FCCW properties can be utilized to maximize their potential for future benefit and income to FCCW.

The Ad-Hoc Technical Committee reported that two Amity High School Seniors have volunteered for the school year to work as interns with FCCW's Streaming and ZOOM programs. The committee is also exploring ways to provide and project hymns and prayers into these programs.

Personnel reported that all administrative office programs have been progressing in a positive direction. The present Office Administrator, Lisa, will shortly be meeting with the Treasurer and present contracted Bookkeeper to plan a transfer of bookkeeping duties to her office functions. Council approved of Personnel's plan with the understanding that final approval will be with approval of Trustees.

The Moderator had been asked by the Nominating Committee chair to fill the two at large positions on Council. To that end, Jack Jones and Janice Touloukian were voted on by all present and approved for those Council positions.

There was no report from Christian Education, but the question was raised as to what plans, if any, were being made for this coming school year for children and youth Christian Education programs.

A written report, from Christian Service as requested by Council, was distributed prior to the meeting. There was no discussion thereof.

Deacons reported that Communion has again begun and will continue the first Sunday of each month. (*cont.*)

(cont.) Scott Hunter, as the newly elected chair of Stewardship, reported that he is looking for ideas about how to improve our Stewardship efforts and overall fund-raising capabilities. He is considering a consolidated plan concerning all FCCW fund raising efforts. He wishes to apply known and tried contemporary principles and methods with the goal of increasing and improving all FCCW fund raising projects and programs. His plans will be taken to Trustees for their consideration. He is looking for a few volunteers to work with him. He had approval of those at the Council.

Under new business, the Council had a short discussion about reviewing the administrative/operational structure of FCCW, based in part on a written report from Dave Schneider in January 2021. There was brief discussion but due to shortness of meeting time the matter was tabled, with the understanding that we need to review this matter soon. The Council did approve the moving of the regular monthly Council meeting to the first Sunday of the month after the coffee hour. This will be tried for a few months and then evaluated. There was brief discussion about an "Apple Crisp" social community event to be held in the Fall. Discussion for next month's meeting.

It was approved, by unanimous vote, to cancel the September FCCW Congregational meeting. Since the main purpose of this meeting is to approve the Preliminary Budget, it was determined that there were a variety of budget matters and issues that had to be decided upon by Trustees, Stewardship, the Treasurer, Search & Renewal, and other FCCW Boards, before a Preliminary Budget could be pulled together. Time would not allow us to do that before the end of September. All budget matters will be discussed at the January Congregational meeting when the Annual Budget is approved. This is done with the understanding that that Budget will be prepared and provided to the membership in adequate time for study and review prior to the January meeting.

A variety of important and meaningful matters were discussed at this Council meeting. We are making positive progress in planning for the future of FCCW. If you have questions, please ask them. Also, please consider joining a church committee and becoming part of future decision making. And more importantly: Please come to church on Sunday morning and join together as we grow into our future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard A. Prescott, Moderator



### PASTORAL COVERAGE

Interim pastoral coverage is currently being 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.

So let's  
stop condemning  
each other.

Romans 14:13 NLT

Decide instead to live in such a way that you will not cause another believer to stumble and fall.

AIR1



## SANCTUARY UPDATE, AUGUST 13, 2021

This morning, David Riccio, VP and Piotr Wirkijowski, Director of Art, from the John Canning Company conducted a ‘kickoff’ meeting with church members about the upcoming sanctuary restoration and repainting. They supplied us a schedule of work which is now posted on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall lobby and on the website for your interest. They confirm that the scaffolding will go up starting on August 23 and will be removed December 6. Sunday services in the sanctuary will continue during this work period. Ceiling preparation will begin in early September and an opportunity to view a ‘mockup’ of the new ceiling décor is expected to take place sometime later that month.

Joe Dzeda, of A. Thompson-Allen (the company that maintains our organ) was present at the meeting and offered his expertise regarding the organ. He suggested we remove and store the front organ pipes during the restoration to protect them from excessive dust. The Music Committee will discuss.

Fundraising remains important as \$22K is still needed to reach our \$150K Phase One goal. Thanks and blessings, to everyone who has contributed.

The Amity and Woodbridge Historical Society’s summer newsletter included a commendation for the FCCW’s restoration effort. Most appreciated, AWHS!

The Sanctuary Committee

**Quote of the month:** “The trompe L’oeil paint style brings the human touch into the space. It makes me aware of *my* humaneness in all its faults and strengths...”



## OCTOBER EVENT! “Inclusive Saturday” October 2nd, 2021

FCCW has been invited to participate in the Town of Woodbridge's "Inclusive Saturday" activities on October 2, 2021, morning into the afternoon. The Woodbridge Road Race will also take place that day. The race will finish in the town center, where various community groups will be conducting activities sponsored by their respective organizations. FCCW will be actively participating, although no plans have been decided upon yet. We would like to offer an activity that will bring attention to FCCW being open, and to our programs. So far, ideas for what to do have centered around selling something such as coffee, apple pie a la mode, cider, donuts, etc. What we need are some volunteers from FCCW's membership to help with the activity, whatever it may be. Please call the office, give Lisa your name, phone number, and time available and someone will be back in touch. You may also volunteer online through our website. At this moment, we need a pool of volunteers to work at the church and Town Green, to represent FCCW's sponsored activity.

**To all future volunteers:  
Please call, email, or sign up on our website asap!**

**Phone: 203-389-2119**

**Email: [office@uccw.org](mailto:office@uccw.org)**

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

## BOY SCOUT TROOP 907 SEPTEMBER UPDATE

Scouts from Troop 907 camped at Camp Sequassen in New Hartford, CT the week of August 1 - 7, 2021. At the All Faith Service, Ben and Elijah from Troop 907 gave readings to those attending. Daniel ran the mile in the Sequassen-man relay. The troop came in first place in the canoe race, and the troop won the "super troop" award for the week!

Regular Thursday night 7 pm meetings start just after Labor Day.  
Suggest to the young man in your family 11 - 17 years old to stop by and meet our great scouts!

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).





## Calendar of Guest Ministers

Aug. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Walter Pitman
Sep. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Walter Pitman
Sept 12 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Hiram Brett
Sept. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Janice Touloukian
Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Karl Duetzmann
Oct. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rev. Raquel Irizarry
Oct. 10 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Martha Bays
Oct. 17 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Karl Duetzmann
Oct. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Martha Bays
Oct. 31 <sup>st</sup>	Rev. Walter Pitman
Nov. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Hiram Brett
Nov. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Walter Pitman
Nov. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Rev. Karl Duetzmann
Nov. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Martha Bays
Dec. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Hiram Brett
Dec. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Karl Duetzmann
Dec. 19 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Janice Touloukian
Dec. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Raquel Irizarry



## ZOOM Invitations and Live Streaming



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

**If you are unable to attend in person, 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.comuccwoodbridge](http://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**



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

Submissions to be published  
in the **October** issue of  
"The Parishioner" are **DUE BY**  
**Wednesday, September 15th.**

**\*Please submit all  
articles and photos to  
JoAnna Rubino via email. If you would like assistance  
regarding Zoom, live stream, or website  
accessibility, please contact JoAnna.**

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

### FCCW OFFICE HOURS

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

### Marking Life's Passages

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

#### **The Parishioner**

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Woodbridge, Connecticut  
06524

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

**Email:** [jantouloukian@gmail.com](mailto: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 IS WEDNESDAY, September 15, 2021 (a firm date).***

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