

Candidating Sunday

May 18, 2025

Words for Meditation

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.

- Martin Luther King Jr.

Every tomorrow has two handles. We can take hold of it with the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith.

- Henry Ward Beecher

Prelude

Nenad Ivočić

Welcome

Bill More & Kathleen Foster

Announcements

*Call to Worship

Joan Rifkin

Leader: Friends, we were called to freedom!

People: We seek to freely love, do justice, and act with compassion and mercy.

Leader: We seek to follow God's pathway for us.

People: The pathway that leads us into an intentional community of fellowship in the model of Jesus Christ.

Leader: God is here among us today! He calls to us! The invitation is open to all! Let us respond in faith.

People: Lord, where you lead, we will follow!

*Gathering Hymn *Called As Partners in Christ's Service* #495 Black Hymnal

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace, we respond with deep commitment,
fresh new lines of faith to trace. May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth, let us follow, never faltering,
reconciling folk on earth. Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense, help us bear each other's burdens,
breaking down each wall or fence. Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life that surround each person's sorrow,
with a calm that conquers strife. Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

Children's Message

Rev. Andrew Wicks, Nicole Giannetta &
Becca Costa

Kids' Church Children are welcome to meet in the entrance area of the sanctuary
for Kids Church in the Parish House.

*Passing the Peace

Scripture *John 13:33-38 & Galatians 5:13-14* (pg. 938 & 1015 in your pew Bible)

Sermon *Lord, Where Are You Going?*

***Hymn**

O For A World

575 Black Hymnal

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice,
that opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.
The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise,
tell all who mourn: outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Service of Prayer

Joys and Concerns / Prayers of the People
Pastoral Prayer and Silent Prayer
Lord's Prayer (debts)

Offering

Call to Offering

Choir Anthem *Bless This House* Arr. Joseph M. Martin

Faye Chen & FCCW Choir

*Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; (or) Praise God, from Whom All blessings flow;	
Praise Him, all creatures here below;	Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;	Praise God for all that love has done;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.	Praise Creator, Christ, and Spirit One.

*Prayer of Dedication

***Closing Hymn**

They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord; we are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
and we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

[Refrain] And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand; we will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land. *[Refrain]*

We will work with each other, we will work side by side; we will work with each other, we will work side by side;
and we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride. *[Refrain]*

All praise to the Father, from him all things come; and praise all to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
and all praise to the Spirit who makes us one. *[Refrain]*

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Postlude

*Please rise in body or in spirit

Welcome to Candidating Weekend:

May 17 & 18!

The Pastoral Search Committee invites all members and friends of FCCW to share in the events of this very special weekend when you will meet and vote upon our proposed candidate to serve as FCCW's 51st pastor, Rev. Andrew Wicks. Below is an outline of the plans ...

- **Saturday, May 17 (3:00 – 4:30 p.m.)** We welcome you to meet and greet Rev. Wicks and his family at an informal reception in the Parish Hall.
- **Sunday, May 18**
 - **Worship Service:** Please share in our worship service, in-person or via Zoom, where Rev. Wicks will offer the sermon.
 - **Special Congregational Meeting:** Immediately after worship, we will convene a Special Congregational Meeting in the sanctuary. The Search Committee will make a brief presentation about our search process, invite all members and friends to ask questions about Rev. Wicks and the search process.
 - **Vote:** Following this discussion, members of FCCW will vote on Rev. Wicks' candidacy to become our pastor. Members who cannot be present in-person, will be able to vote via Zoom. The information on how to vote via Zoom will be shared at the meeting.

Faithfully Yours,
Search Committee



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP HOME-GOODS DRIVE

The Men's Fellowship, on hiatus for a while, is back and sponsoring a home-goods drive to support the Woodbridge Food Pantry. The pantry is in great need of cleaning and personal hygiene supplies to augment the food they provide to our Woodbridge neighbors in need. The need stems from the shortage of donations of non-food items to the pantry. Items will be collected throughout May in a box located in the coat hanging area in the Parish House lobby. There will also be collection bags in the narthex on Sunday Mornings. The supplies will be taken to the Food Pantry periodically during the drive rather than waiting for one big delivery once the drive ends. Below is a list of supplies that are needed. Please be generous but please only donate the items the Food Pantry wants.

Thank you for your support!

Cleaning Products: laundry detergent and pods, dish washing soap and pods, antibacterial wipes, spray cleaners, Lysol

Personal Hygiene Products: shampoo and conditioner, unscented soaps, deodorants, Kleenex, shaving supplies

They could also use some **specific food items:** cooking oils, salad dressings, mayo, coffee & tea (both caffeinated and decaffeinated).

Make sure food items are not about to expire.



NOTICE OF SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2025

FOLLOWING THE SUNDAY SERVICE

The membership of the First Church of Christ, Woodbridge is hereby called to a special meeting in the Church Sanctuary on Sunday, May 18, 2025 immediately following the Sunday Service in order to:

Receive and act upon the Search Committee's recommendation to call the Rev. Andrew J. Wicks as FCCW's next Pastor.

No other business will be conducted at this meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Stoddard, Clerk

NOTE: The vote on this motion will be by paper ballot. The result being determined by the number of members in attendance who vote "yes" or "no".

Votes by members on ZOOM will be reported by the ZOOM host to the Tellers Committee, per Roberts Rules of Orders. Members attending on ZOOM via phone will verbally give their vote to the ZOOM host.

**68TH ANNUAL
STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

**FRIDAY JUNE 13
5:30 - 7:30 PM**

**FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST
5 MEETINGHOUSE LANE
WOODBIDGE**

HOT DOGS & BURGERS PREPARED BY TROOP 907

**HOMEMADE STRAWBERRY SHORTCAKE WITH
FRESH WHIPPED CREAM**

LIVE MUSIC

TOURS OF OUR HISTORIC CHURCH

**CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES:FACE PAINTING,
MUSIC BY MICHELE URBAN,
& LAWN GAMES**

CASH OR CHECK ONLY