

THE PARISHIONER

JUNE 2022

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

WOODBIDGE, CT

An Open, Welcoming and Affirming Church since 1738



Dear members and friends of First Church,

There is never a shortage of topics for my monthly newsletter article, but for this June I thought it would be meaningful to use my space to share the Invocation I offered on Memorial Day at the Town of Woodbridge celebration. I hope it blesses you.

Memorial Day Invocation
offered by Rev. Susan J. Murtha
Town of Woodbridge
May 30, 2022

Eternal Spirit, Life-Giver, Pain-Bearer,
Everlasting wisdom and justice, righteousness and mercy,
Defender of the weak and Author of peace,
God of all people and all the nations,
You who are with us and also beyond us,
hear our prayer.

We gather this day on our town green –
a small space in your vast creation, but no less hallowed by You.

We gather as a people who enjoy, and often take for granted, this right to gather –
a freedom known in so few places in this world.

We gather as a community –
people of different ages and journeys
sharing in common not only land, but values, hopes, and also deep gratitude on this
Memorial Day.

We gather as a people who live in a safety and abundance
that has been protected by men and women
who laid down their lives
that others may live in liberty, justice and freedom.

Taking nothing for granted Lord, we ask You in humility
to sanctify our commitment today to truly honor their sacrifices
by remembering evils perpetrated and
turning never to cycles of revenge but always to right actions –
to defend neighbors far and near against human evil
and to strengthen human goodness.

We do all this as we trust in You to bring us, at last, to the new creation whose foundations are
mercy and righteousness, reconciliation and peace.

In your name beyond our words, we pray.
Amen

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

MAY 2022

The May Church Council meeting met with a quorum present on May 2, 2022, in the Parish House Board Room. After opening remarks, and approval of the April meeting minutes, Rev. Murtha's written report was distributed. She was unable to be present.

The Treasurer's report, as sent by Jack Jones, was distributed and discussed. While total expenses for March were over budget, income for the same period exceeded expenses. The report was approved and accepted. Betty Fearon reported for the Music Committee. The classical music concert conducted by Nenad and invited guests is planned for the 14th of the month. Nenad will continue as FCCW's Director of Instrumental Music when he returns in September. We are proud of the fact that Nenad has been accepted for a doctorate of music degree at CUNY in NYC. He will be returning home for the summer and in his absence, Faye Chen will be covering worship services for him.

Trustee's reported that they had voted to request that those nonprofit charitable organizations to which FCCW donates funding, be asked to present pulpit personals. This has been done in the past and allows the membership to hear how Christian Service financial support is being used by recipients. Carl also reported that we at FCCW must have a posture of "watching waiting" with regards to plans and projects being undertaken by the Town of Woodbridge that affect and/or concern us. More to come. The expressed views of those present was that we, at FCCW, not be kept in the dark regarding town proposals.

Nominating Committee report by Penny noted that they are reviewing the present long-term membership of those serving on Boards/Committees. This is an attempt to share and distribute leadership and experience skills with all groups and to seek new participation by others. A slate for all FCCW officers and Board/Committee members will be presented at the May Congregational meeting. Personnel Committee reported that Nancy is presently reviewing all FCCW paid employee job descriptions and will be, as appropriate, updating them. She is being assisted by Rev. Murtha with this task.

The report from the Strawberry Festival Committee indicated that all planning is on schedule for the June 17th event. Financial support is available through the Petty Cash account. Everyone is looking forward with great anticipation to the return of this FCCW "Milestone" event! Boy Scout Troop #907 will be actively working and involved with this Festival. The Boy Scout Troop reported that their garden sale event in April was successful. The Troop will again be conducting an updating/replacement of American flags on the graves of veterans in Woodbridge cemeteries.

The First Selectman's letter response to the Moderator's request for information was distributed and discussed. The letter did answer all questions, although there was some question about why the Town did not feel that there was a need to inform us of the proposed sidewalk construction plans. It was discussed and agreed that it was important that our actions be directed toward seeking and maintaining good relations with the Town, as we have had for many, many years.

The question of bonding of the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer was discussed, based on an FCCW By Laws requirement. This question will be researched and referred to Trustees. Discussion of whether FCCW should be renting space to PAC's was discussed. While there are different types thereof with varying purposes and agendas, it was voted by Council that we not rent, thereby setting precedent, to any PAC. It was noted that our signage in the Narthex and on the Parish House should be brought up to date.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM. The next Council meeting is scheduled for June 6th.

Respectfully submitted, Richard A. Prescott, Moderator

First Church Music

The Music Committee was thrilled to host our first concert since the start of COVID. The concert was held on Saturday, May 14th in our lovely renovated sanctuary. Our own Nenad Ivovic was accompanied by guest cellist Hans Emil Sollesnes and violinist Michael Ferri, both from Yale School of Music. Also playing was Nenad's 7th grade student, Jason Chen, who played a four hand piano piece with Nenad. The music was incredible and we are blessed to have an internationally renowned pianist as part of our church, as well as these accomplished musicians. The concert was well attended and the Music Committee hosted a reception afterwards in the Parish House. Nenad expressed an interest in having another concert in the Fall and possibly in the Spring, hoping to get these musicians back to join him. We asked for donation which went towards Doctors Without Borders for Ukraine Relief and we received more than \$700.

We are pleased to announce that even though Nenad's time at Yale has come to an end, he very much wanted to continue on in his position with us which we are thrilled about. He will be studying to get his Doctorate of Music at the City University of New York. Over this summer he will be performing many concerts throughout Europe and other adventurous places.





A special “thank you” to Charlotte and Emma Lindskog for your many volunteer hours assisting our church with zooming and other technical needs! Your help has been invaluable in the “moving forward” process of First Church. Congratulations on your graduation from Amity High School and good luck and God’s blessings as you start the next chapter of your lives!

***Jack, Jesse and Nancy
Technology Committee***

Interested in helping with weeding the flower beds
around the church campus?

Contact Joyce Simpson at (203) 387 0764



BOY SCOUT TROOP #907



The Spring year-ending Troop 907 Court of Honor will be held on Saturday, June 18 starting at approx. noon at the First Church Woodbridge, outdoors, weather permitting. The troop is camping on church property that weekend and will also participating in the Community Strawberry Festival the night before, Friday, June 17 from 5:30 to 8:00 PM. Please come support the scouts, learn about their adventures this year, and attend both events!

The first photo shows the four Troop 907 Scouts who recently became part of the Order of the Arrow. The second photo is of the scouts who replaced the flags at the Woodbridge cemeteries in advance of Memorial Day. The third is of the recently constructed flag retirement receptacle next to the town hall completed as Troop 907's Ben Rickel's Eagle project.



Yours in Scouting,

Rich Forselius

Troop 907 Committee Chair and COR

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

JUNE 17

First Church of Christ Woodbridge and Boy Scout Troop # 907 (who has been meeting at the church since October 31, 1968) will be sponsoring our town wide 65th Strawberry Festival to be held on the Church Green on Friday, June 17 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. We invite Woodbridge and our neighboring towns to enjoy a picnic dinner and homemade strawberry shortcake. The musical group, Eventide, will be performing and our sanctuary will be open to show our community what a beautiful historic church we have! The menu includes hamburgers, veggie burgers, hotdogs, chips, and drinks. Dessert will be our famous homemade strawberry shortcake. We will have tables set up or bring a blanket for an old-fashioned picnic dinner on the Green. All profits will be donated to Ukrainian Relief.



EVENTIDE

**With Pru O'Brien and
Chris Kinsley**

SAVE THE DATE



Wednesday, September 14

Manchester Country Club

www.silverlakect.org/golf

Are you a golfer?

Check out the Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center

For information about the

16th Annual Golf Tournament!

FCCW OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Submission Due Date

*Articles and photos for the July 2022
Edition of The Parishioner* are due by
Monday June 20.

***Please submit articles and photos by email.**
office@uccw.org

If you would like assistance
regarding Zoom, live stream, or website
accessibility, please contact Lisa.
office@uccw.org

Weekly Bible Study



All are welcome to visit our
Weekly Bible Study every
Wednesday morning at 10
a.m. in the Parish House.
Please visit the Bible Study
page on our website for more
information and a list of weekly
readings.

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

Upcoming Memorial Service at FCCW

For Donna Charron

Saturday, June 4 at 11 am
with a reception to follow at the Parish House

**SUNDAY
WORSHIP
SERVICE** SUNDAYS AT 10AM

Marking Life's Passages

*Contact the office
with any birth or death notices, baptisms,
or memorial service dates.*



ZOOM INVITATIONS

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

An archive of past recordings are available 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.**

Interim Minister: Rev. Susan Murtha (pastorsusan@uccw.org)
(203) 936-9356

Pastoral Care: Rev. Janice Touloukian (jantouloukian@gmail.com)
(203) 915-1510

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Boyd M. Johnson, Jr.

Office Administrator: Lisa Tartaglino (office@uccw.org)

Sexton/Custodian: Bob Turner

The Parishioner

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Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

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Website: www.uccw.org —

FB: www.facebook.com/uccwoodbridge

JUNE 2022

First Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Musical Folk 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 am Music School 2-7	2 Music School 2-7 Boy Scouts 7 pm	3 Music School 2-7	4 Musical Folk 9:30 11 am Mem. service for Donna Charron
5 10 am Church Worship Service NEXT STEPS Part 8 at 11:15	6 AA - Lamppost group 7:30 pm	7 Alateen 7 pm Al-anon/AA 7:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30	8 Musical Folk 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 am Music School 2-7	Music School 2-7 Boy Scouts 7 pm	10 Music School 2-7	11 Musical Folk 9:30
12 10 am Church Worship Service	13 AA - Lamppost group 7:30 pm	14 Alateen 7 pm Al-anon/AA 7:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30	15 Musical Folk 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 am Music School 2-7	16 Music School 2-7 Boy Scouts 7 pm Trustees 6:30	17 Music School 2-7 Strawberry Festival 5:30 pm	18 Musical Folk 9:30 Boy Scouts Court of Honor 12 pm
19 10 am Church Worship Service	20 AA - Lamppost group 7:30 pm	21 Alateen 7 pm Al-anon/AA 7:30 pm WILLows - 10:30 am Choir Practice 6:30	22 Musical Folk 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 am Music School 2-7	23 Music School 2-7	24 Music School 2-7	25 Musical Folk 9:30
26 10 am Church Worship Service	27 AA - Lamppost group 7:30 pm	28 Alateen 7 pm Al-anon/AA 7:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30	29 Musical Folk 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 am Music School 2-7	30 Music School 2-7		