



THE PARISHIONER

MAY 2022



THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST WOODBIDGE, CT

An Open, Welcoming and Affirming Church since 1738

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Telephone: (203) 389-2119 Email: office@uccw.org

Website: www.uccw.org — Facebook: www.facebook.com/uccwoodbridge

Three Crowns: an Easter faith-story for children of all ages

Yes, it had occurred to me that there may be children with us in worship on Easter Sunday, but as I had not seen any since my arrival at First Church Woodbridge on February 1st, I decided to set aside that hope and stick to preparing an adult Easter worship service. And then in they came on Easter morning. Two children, and then two more, and then another two. Though I couldn't pull together an excellent one, God's Holy Spirit beckoned me ... *tell the children the faith story!* Here's the story I shared with children (of all ages) ...

People love kings and queens and princes and princesses. That was true in Jesus' day too. People noticed that Jesus was very special and very powerful and that he was a very good man. And they thought, 'Hooray, Jesus will be our king; God has sent us a king who will punish the bad people and reward the good people. And he will have an army of soldiers and win more land for us. And we will put upon our king a crown of jewels.' But Jesus told them, 'I am not a king like that.' He said, 'God has sent me to love and forgive all people.' Well, the more he said that sort of thing, the more sad and angry people got. And they forgot all about the crown of jewels and put a crown thorns on his head and put him to death on a cross and then placed his body in a tomb.

God was very sad. God climbed into the tomb and put aside the crown of jewels and then took off the crown of thorns and God gave Jesus life again and also gave him the crown of glory.

Lots of people who look at Jesus cannot see this crown of glory, but for all those who believe in him they see it. If you would like to see it, let me give you a hint: it's not on his head; it's under his feet. All those follow in his steps, they see it there and as they walk with him, they share in his crown of glory. And that is so much more wonderful than being a prince or a princess, a queen or a king. And that is my Easter wish for you – that you follow Jesus and share in his crown of glory.

There was a great intro that I couldn't recall in the moment, and great props I didn't have on hand, and a sweet "echo prayer" that I forgot to end with it. But the most important thing happened this Easter ... from Deuteronomy 4:8-10: "Take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children."

Resurrection blessings,

Rev. Susan

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT -- APRIL 2022

The FCCW Church Council met with a quorum present on April 4, 2022, in the Board Room of the Parish House. After giving the opening prayer, Rev Murtha presented her report regarding her month's activities including the Sunday Retreat sessions, administrative duties, and suggestions regarding the earlier starting of Sunday worship ZOOM availability.

The Treasurer's report noted that February expenses were below budget, while total operating expenses for the year exceeded income, due in part to building heating costs. Overall, the financial status remains stable and cash balance is within the planned range.

Deacon's reported that plans, in cooperation with Rev. Murtha were made for Holy Week activities. Deacons have, after researching the membership list, developed a "call list" of thirty shut-ins and have begun coordinating visitations and calls thereto. The Technical Committee is purchasing new audio equipment, such as microphones, and a mini-PC. Jesse was thanked for all of his work in coordinating and improving our ZOOM and audio presentations.

A May 14 concert in the sanctuary was reported on by the Music Committee. Nenad will perform and coordinate the concert to include guest performers. The concert is open to members and the community with a free will offering for the benefit of a Ukrainian relief charity. A reception will follow. A written report from Christian Service was presented to Council.

Stewardship reported that all pledges are up to date. Future fund-raising plans will depend on the path FCCW will be taking. Plans are being made to review the overall fund-raising effort to include all components and aspects thereof.

In preparation for the Congregational Meeting in May, the Nominating Committee is reviewing FCCW Board and Committee (B&C) needs and will be contacting members for serving. Thought is being given to asking members of some (B&C's) if they'd be interested in moving to other (B&C's). Please consider serving. Your help is needed! The Personnel Committee is looking for volunteers for operating ZOOM Sunday services and other meetings. Lisa has successfully transitioned to all her new tasks and responsibilities including website and Facebook duties.

The Bylaws ad hoc committee reported on the final revision to the FCCW bylaws. After discussion, the revision was approved by Council for submission to the September Congregational Meeting, for discussion and approval. Bill More was thanked for all of his work on this project.

The Boy Scout report noted that the Troop will be holding its annual garden sale in April. Five scouts have participated in the Order of The Arrow ceremony. The Troop will coordinate the hot dog and hamburger cooking at the FCCW June Strawberry festival. We at FCCW continue to have many reasons to be proud of our relationship with this exemplary troop and its leaders.

The return of FCCW's June Strawberry Festival was presented and discussed. While there is presently a small group coordinating this festival, there will be a need for many volunteers to ensure its success.

The Moderator reported that he had sent a letter to the First Selectman of Woodbridge regarding the town's plans for a sidewalk along FCCW's property on Newton Road. This matter will continue to be followed, hopefully with FCCW participation. The May Congregational Meeting will be held on May 22, 2022, after the worship service. Plans now call for it to be somewhat abbreviated to coordinate with Rev. Murtha's Sunday Retreat program. Look for details, soon.

Lastly: If you have not yet attended and participated in our Sunday Retreat program, please know that you are really missing an informative, enlightened opportunity to participate in the future growth and direction of our beloved "Church on The Green". New times are coming. Join in!

Respectfully submitted, Richard A. Prescott, Moderator



Reverend Susan Murtha has been asked to do the Invocation and Benediction at the Annual Woodbridge Memorial Day ceremony which will be held on Monday, May 30, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Monument in front of The Center building, 4 Meetinghouse Lane. All are invited to attend!

God's Masterpiece

~Herbert Farnham

God took the fragrance of a flower, The majesty of a tree,
The gentleness of morning dew, The calm of a quiet sea.

The beauty of the twilight hour, The soul of a starry night,
The laughter of a rippling brook, The grace of a bird in flight.

Then God fashioned from these things, A creation like no other,
And when his masterpiece was through, He called it simply - Mother.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

BOY SCOUT TROOP #907



Troop 907 finished up its spring fundraiser plant and fertilizer sale held throughout April; thanks sincerely to all who supported this annual fundraising event, the only fundraiser the troop holds. Profits directly support troop activities.

Five scouts from troop 907 were recently elected to the Owaneco Lodge, Order of the Arrow, the most in recent memory, a big reason for celebration!

Scouts will be placing or updating American flags on veterans' graves in the Woodbridge cemeteries on Saturday May 14 in advance of Memorial Day. They have a movie night planned for May 29. On June 17th, scouts, adult leaders and parents will be assisting with the First church community Strawberry festival. The year-ending Court of Honor is scheduled for Saturday, June 18 at 6:30 PM, all church members and anyone interested are invited. On June 23 scouts will have troop night golf followed by pizza. We also expect to have the first Eagle Court of Honor sometime in May or June, all are invited.

The weekend of March 25-27, scouts camped at Camp Strang in Goshen, CT. From April 29 - May 1st scouts hiked and camped along the Appalachian Trail in northwest Connecticut. Upcoming campouts include canoeing in Boston Harbor to Fort Andrews/ Peddocks Island, Boston Harbor Islands State Park, Hull Massachusetts campsite May 20-22, They also will be taking the ferry and biking around Block Island on another upcoming campout in September. All troop events are posted at Scouts BSA Troop 907 Webpage Scouts BSA Troop 907, Woodbridge, CT, Troop907.org.

The troop is looking for a Life-to-Eagle coordinator. Longtime leader and former scout Nate Case has announced his intention to pass on this important responsibility. Scouts will be camping at Camp Sequassen this summer the week of July 31 - August 7.

As always, interested youth, parents and potential adult leaders are welcomed every Thursday 7:00 PM at Troop 907 meetings, Parish House rear entrance,

Yours in Scouting,

Richard Forselius



CLASSICAL MUSIC CONCERT IN THE AFTERNOON

On Saturday, May 14 at 4:00 p.m. there will be a concert in the sanctuary featuring our own Music Director and international concert pianist Nenad Ivovic and accomplished guest musicians, cellist Hans Emil Sollesnes, and violinist Michael Ferri, both presently at the Yale School of Music. These three will be performing J. Brahms' Piano Trio No. 1 in B major. Nenad will be joined by his eleven-year-old seventh grade student Jason Chen in playing F. Schubert's Fantasia in F minor, for piano four hands, D.940. (Jason has performed for us in the past and has even played at Carnegie Hall.) Join us afterwards for a reception to meet these talented musicians. There will be a free will offering for Ukraine.



For more information, call the church office at 203-389-2119.

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. There will be a dynamic musical group to entertain you 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. Bring a blanket for an old-fashioned picnic dinner on the Green. All profits will be donated to Ukrainian Relief.

**Jacquelyn Gleisner and Ryan Paxton
welcomed their second child,**

Eugene Jacob Paxton

on Tuesday, April 5 at 9:31 a.m.

**He weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz. and measured
18.5 inches on his birthday!**

The family is all doing well!



**NOTICE OF ANNUAL
CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

The membership of The First Church of Christ, Woodbridge, is hereby called to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 22, 2022 following the 10 am Worship Service at the Parish House and via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Stoddard, Clerk



Thank you on behalf of Joyce Simpson and the family for the many comforting cards and messages received following the loss of her beloved son, Andrew Jacob Hemmerlein who passed away on March 25, 2022.

Upcoming Memorial Services at FCCW

For Fred Finkenauer

Saturday, May 7 at 1 pm

with a reception to follow at the Parish House

For Donna Charron

Saturday, June 4 at 11 am

with a reception to follow at the Parish House

FCCW OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

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



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>

Submission Due Date

Articles and photos for the **June 2022** Edition of *The Parishioner* are due by **Wednesday, May 18.**

*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

Marking Life's Passages

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

WORSHIP

EVERY SUNDAY @ 10:00 AM



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.

The Parishioner

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The First Church of Christ
Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525

Interim Minister: Rev. Susan Murtha (pastorsusan@uccw.org)

Pastoral Care: Rev. Janice Touloukian (jantouloukian@gmail.com)

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

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

Audio/Visual: Charlotte & Emma Lindskog

We are grateful to everyone who contributed Easter Plants for the church.

Given by

Roger B. Calistro & Kathleen M. Foster
Tim Cowles
Walter & Ethel Crosby
Nancy Dickgiesser & Terry Ward
Constance Cryer Ecklund
Richard & Debra Forselius
Robin Glowa & Robert Guerra

Flora Gonzalez and family
Richard & Elizabeth Fearon
The Griffiths
Matt, Andrea & Olive Hubbard

Al Jarvis
Carole Kimmach & family
Carl & Annemarie Lindskog
Bill More
Jim & Georgia Morgan
Lynn A. Piascyk
Richard & Carole Prescott
Stefany Schulz
Joyce Simpson
Sue Stoddard

In Loving Memory or in Honor of:

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Calistro
Ray and Alice Cowles
Crosby and Kovacs families
Fred Finkenauer and our parents
The Ecklund, Cryer and Prior families
Our son, our parents, our brothers
Elfreda Glowa Cerniglia, Lucia Guerra Laski,
Michael Guerra, Carmen Guerra Sr. and
Carmen Guerra, Jr.

Caleb Gonzalez, M.D.
Our parents and loved ones
Terrance Grannis
Katherine and Winchester Hubbard
Robert and Rachel Conniff
My mother and father, Florence and Jeff Jarvis
Wilson Kimmach
Eric Charles Lindskog and his grandparents
All who serve First Church
Andrew (Joyce Simpson's son)
Shirley and Bob Piascyk, Audrey C. Gray
Our parents
Bob
Andrew
My parents, Betty and Bill Stoddard
my brother, Will and Greg Roberts



MAY 2022 First Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 am Church Worship Service	2 AA – Lamppost group 7:30 pm Council Meeting 6 pm	3 Alateen 7 pm Al-anon/AA 7:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30	4 Musical Folk 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 am Music School 2-7 Woodbridge Park As- soc. Mtg. 7 pm	5 Music School 2-7 Boy Scouts 7 pm	6 Music School 2-7	7 Musical Folk 9:30 Mem. Service Fred Finkenauer 1 pm
8 10 am Church Worship Service NEXT STEPS Part 6 / 11:15	9 AA – Lamppost group 7:30 pm	10 Alateen 7 pm Al-anon/AA 7:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30	11 Musical Folk 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 am Music School 2-7	12 Music School 2-7 Boy Scouts 7 pm	13 Music School 2-7	14 Musical Folk 9:30 Concert 4 pm
15 10 am Church Worship Service	16 AA – Lamppost group 7:30 pm	17 Alateen 7 pm Al-anon/AA 7:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30 Willows – 10:30 am	18 Musical Folk 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 am Music School 2-7	19 Music School 2-7 Boy Scouts 7 pm Trustees 6:30	20 Music School 2-7	21 Musical Folk 9:30
22 10 am Church Worship Service	23 AA – Lamppost group 7:30 pm	24 Alateen 7 pm Al-anon/AA 7:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30	25 Musical Folk 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 am Music School 2-7	26 Music School 2-7 Boy Scouts 7 pm	27	28 Musical Folk 9:30
Annual Meeting (after service)						
29 10 am Church Worship Service	30 AA – Lamppost group 7:30 pm	31 Alateen 7 pm Al-anon/AA 7:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30				