



THE PARISHIONER

APRIL 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

Lent, Holy Week, and Next Steps

God's grace and peace to you. In this Lenten season, I pray that you are deepening your relationship with God, with Christ, and with the Holy Spirit. I pray that Sunday worship and daily faith practices are sources of spiritual nourishment for each of you personally and for all of you as a Body of Christ. I pray that you praying for all the relationships within the faith community of First Church (*the sermon message of March 20th!*).

Looking ahead to Holy Week and Easter, please see the flyer in this newsletter for an outline of the blessed plans. Below are a few notes for now:

- **Maundy Thursday (April 14) at 7:00 p.m.** We'll gather in the Parish Hall for an intimate worship service to commemorate Jesus' last supper with his disciples. *If you're hungry for spiritual nourishment, come; this service promises to provide.*
- **Good Friday (April 15) from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.** The sanctuary will be open for personal prayer, meditation, scripture reading, and reflection. Come when you can and stay for as long as you'd like.
- **Easter Sunday (April 17) at 10:00 a.m.** In worship we will celebrate the Gospel's good news: "that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (*Romans 8:38-39*).

Nominated (by me) for one of the deepest and most far-reaching spiritual practice of this Lenten and Easter season: your participation in the all-church gatherings (NEXT STEPS) after worship in the Parish Hall! We are not unlike the first followers of Jesus who gathered in small churches and homes to pray and to discern their purpose and mission. In our gatherings, together we are gaining understanding and insight: Who are we? Where are we? Who is our neighbor? What God is calling us to be and do as we look to the future? How do we get there? As scripture testifies, there are multiple answers (and tensions) to such questions. What scriptures have in common is the question that the people of God ask: 'What does it mean to be faithful in our time and circumstance?' That is First Church's question. Join us! The dates for NEXT STEPS all-church gatherings are announced as we go, as the Spirit leads us, as the congregation is ready to take its next steps.

Lenten and Easter blessings,

Rev. Susan Murtha

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

MARCH 2022

The FCCW Church Council met with a quorum present by Zoom and in attendance, on Sunday, March 6, at 11:25 AM in the Parish House rug room. After the opening prayer by Rev. Murtha, the January meeting minutes were voted on and accepted.

The Council received for the first time in over one year, and with great anticipation, the first Pastor's report from Rev. Susan Murtha. Her written report which detailed her first month in her new position, was distributed and discussed. She was thanked for all her extra time and effort in beginning her new duties as our Interim Minister.

The Treasurer's report was distributed and presented, by Zoom, by Assistant Treasurer Jack Jones. In summary: 29% of 2022 pledges received to date, income for the month was above budget, while expenses were under budget. Matching funds from the state for work in the sanctuary is pending although the work has been approved and awaiting State AG sign off. After discussion and questions the report was accepted as distributed.

Hard copies of the revised copies of FCCW By Laws were distributed by the Ad Hoc By Law Committee. Copies had been previously distributed by email. Discussion was led by Bill More who has volunteered to coordinate this effort with assistance from Richard Prescott. He noted that this work was not done to make major policy revisions in the By Laws but to streamline the document so that it could be more easily read and to have the By Laws reflect the present-day operations and functioning of the church. Over one hour of time was devoted to the many questions and discussion which resulted. Bill requested that questions regarding the draft be sent to him within two weeks so that they could be compiled for discussion of the rewrite at the April Council meeting. The final draft would be submitted to the Congregational May meeting for final approval. Copies of the draft will be available in the FCCW church office.

The next item on the agenda was presented by Trustees and prompted a great deal of discussion. It dealt with the Town of Woodbridge's proposal to build a sidewalk on church property along Newton Road from the Amity High School driveway entrance to the corner of Meetinghouse Lane and Newton Road. This proposed project had been under discussion and in planning stages by the Town for over two years but never brought to FCCW's attention. There were pros and cons regarding the project. The consensus of the meeting was that we wished to cooperate with the Town if and when this project was started. Richard Jaynes noted that cooperative precedent had been established many years ago when the Town wished to widen Meetinghouse Lane and FCCW allowed the use of church property to complete the project for the mutual benefit of both parties. It was decided that the Moderator, after discussion with Carl Lindskog, write a letter to the First Selectman to request answers to questions raised by both Council and Trustees.

Other committee reports: Personnel reported that JoAnna would be moving out of state and that her duties particularly the *Parishioner* would be undertaken by Lisa, Office Administrator. Lisa's hours will be increased to allow her to complete these new tasks. FCCW new office hours will be 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The Technical Committee reported that a new computer and monitor was being installed with the email system being updated. A written report from Christian Service was distributed. The Moderator was asked to contact Jinny Schneider regarding FCCW's involvement and outreach regarding the Ukrainian crisis.

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Stewardship reported that to date only \$60,000 had been pledged for 2022 from forty-one pledges. This represents approximately 25% of total anticipated income for the year. The Boy Scout report indicated that with the disbanding of other troops in the area the FCCW troop might see an increase in membership. The annual fund-raising sale of garden plants and supplies will be held on April 9, 16, and 23 in front of the Meetinghouse. Please support them! The Scouts will also be available to help in the planning and support of the proposed FCCW Strawberry Festival in June. Nancy Dickgiesser and Sue Stoddard have agreed to coordinate this year's June 2022 Strawberry Festival and request volunteers from our members to again make this the prime FCCW community social event of the year. Details and information to be available in the very near future.

Council agreed to make covid masking optional at church activities on church properties in keeping with state optional masking policies.

The one hour and fifty-minute meeting, the longest in a long time, adjourned at 1:15 PM. The next meeting of Council will be on Monday, April 4, at 6:00 PM in the Parish House.

Respectfully submitted, Richard A. Prescott, Moderator

BOY SCOUT TROOP #907

First Church's Troop 907 is an active troop where the scouts live the adventure and take active roles in leadership. It has grown and has three potential Eagles Scouts this year. The winter Court of Honor was held on Thursday, February 24 where advancement and merit badges were awarded.

Scouts will be holding their annual plant and fertilizer fundraiser three weekends in April. The troop does not receive direct funding from First Church; please consider patronizing this sale, the profits from which 100% directly fund scout activities!

Troop 907 is always welcoming new members and information can be found at <http://www.troop907.org>. The troop meets every Thursday in the Parish House, rear entrance. The troop hopes to see prospective scouts and parents at Thursday 7:00 PM weekly meetings soon. Come and meet our scoutmaster Tom Luciani and Assistant Scoutmasters Ken Hulse and Nic Kohncke.



Yours in Scouting,

Richard Forselius

***Troop 907 Committee Chair and
Chartered Organization Representative.***



FCCW's Board of Christian Service was able to be a blessing and make a donation to The Fellowship Place on Elm Street in New Haven. Fellowship Place has provided therapeutic support and rehabilitation services for adults living with a mental illness for over sixty years. Located on a small campus in New Haven, CT, the agency focuses on education, employment, housing, and social integration. The pictures above show just a few of the many programs they offer: career development, art classes (ArtShip), community engagement, recreational outings, permanent supportive housing and homeless daytime drop-in services. It is a joy to see their faces and know that we have, in a small way, invested in their lives! Thank you FCCW!

Jinny Schneider, FCCW Christian Service



SAVE THE DATE!!!!

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

JUNE 17



Mark your calendars! We will be having our Strawberry Festival on Friday, June 17, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the church green. We are looking for volunteers to help prepare the food on Thursday and Friday, as well as setting up on Friday, helping in the kitchen during the event, ticket taking, serving the strawberry shortcakes, and cleaning up afterwards. Please call Co-Chairs, ***Nancy Dickgiesser, (203) 389-2433***, or ***Sue Stoddard, (203) 453-1255*** to help out. Let's make this a big Church event to show the community that we have opened up again after COVID! We are searching for a lively musical group to perform, and to have the sanctuary open to show the community what a beautiful place it is! More information to follow.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

APRIL

4/3 Rev. Susan Murtha
4/10 Rev. Greg Mobley
(Palm Sunday)
4/17 Rev. Susan Murtha
(Easter Sunday)
4/24 Rev. Karl Duetzmann

MAY

5/1 Rev. Susan Murtha
5/8 Rev. Greg Mobley
5/15 Rev. Susan Murtha
5/22 Rev. Walter Pitman
5/29 Rev. Raquel Irizarry

JUNE

6/5 Rev. Susan Murtha
6/12 Rev. Greg Mobley
6/19 Rev. Susan Murtha
6/26 Rev. Karl Duetzmann



Happy Easter!!

*Up from the grave He arose,
with a mighty triumph
o'er His foes;
He arose a Victor
from the dark domain,
and He lives forever
with His saints to reign.*

~ Lowry

NEW FCCW OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday

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

Submission Due Date

Articles and photos for the **May 2022**
Edition of *The Parishioner* are due by
Wednesday, April 20th.

***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>

Marking Life's Passages

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

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
(time to be announced)**



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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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

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 10

10:00 a.m. worship service

In-person in the sanctuary & via Zoom

Luke 11:14-23, 56

Palm Sunday Reflection: *Not Yet*

Maundy Thursday, April 14

7:00 p.m. worship service

In the Parish Hall

Meditation: *Comrade*

Tenebrae Service

Good Friday, April 15

The sanctuary will be open from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m.
for personal prayer and reading of scripture

Easter Sunday, April 17

10:00 a.m. worship service

In-person in the sanctuary & via Zoom

John 20:1-19

Easter Reflection: *A Second Look*

April 2022 First Church of Christ

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Musical Folk 9:30
					Music School 2-7	
3 10 am Church Wor- ship Service	4 AA – Lamppost group 7:30 pm Council Meeting 6 pm	5 Alateen 7 pm Al-anon/AA 7:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	6 Musical Folk 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 am Music School 2-7	7 Music School 2-7 Boy Scouts 7 pm	8 Music School 2-7	9 Musical Folk 9:30
10 10 am Church Wor- ship Service PALM SUNDAY	11 AA – Lamppost group 7:30 pm	12 Alateen 7 pm Al-anon/AA 7:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	13 Musical Folk 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 am Music School 2-7	14 Music School 2-7 Boy Scouts 7 pm Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm	15 Music School 2-7 Sanctuary open from 12 - 3	16 Musical Folk 9:30
17 10 am Church Wor- ship Service EASTER SUNDAY	18 AA – Lamppost group 7:30 pm	19 Alateen 7 pm Al-anon/AA 7:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	20 Musical Folk 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 am Music School 2-7	21 Music School 2-7 Boy Scouts 7 pm Trustees 6:30	22 Music School 2-7	23 Musical Folk 9:30
24 10 am Church Wor- ship Service	25 AA – Lamppost group 7:30 pm	26 Alateen 7 pm Al-anon/AA 7:30 pm Choir Practice 6:30 pm	27 Musical Folk 9:30 Bible Study 10:00 am Music School 2-7	28 Music School 2-7 Boy Scouts 7 pm	29	30