

THE PARISHIONER

March 2024

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, WOODBRIDGE,
CT since 1738
An Open, Welcoming, and Affirming Church

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 24

10:00 a.m. worship service
in the sanctuary & via Zoom

Palm Parade led by the children

Luke 11:28 – 40

Palm Sunday Reflection: *Hosana, Hosana*

Maundy Thursday, March 28

7:00 p.m. worship service
in the sanctuary

Communion

Maundy Thursday scripture readings

Good Friday, March 29

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

Easter Sunday, March 31

10:00 a.m. worship service
in the sanctuary & via Zoom

John 20:1-19

Easter Reflection: *Look Again*

FCCW CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

The February meeting of the FCCW Church Council was held by ZOOM on the 5th of the month. This was, again, a rather routine meeting, making note of the fact that all functions of the church were progressing well and in a routine manner. All boards and committees were meeting and conducting business during this quiet time of the year. The Congregational Meeting in January had addressed important matters of concern and interest. Bits and pieces of information of interest: The new ZOOM cameras in the Meeting House have improved the quality of pictures being projected to viewers. There will be a Spring Concert with information to be forthcoming in the near future. Based on consensus of the Congregational Meeting, that the Church Council can act on conducting business after the 1st of the year; a function that had been decided at the September Congregational meeting, it was agreed that a bylaws change can be presented at the May Congregational Meeting addressing the elimination of the September meeting. The Pastoral Search Committee continues to have regular meetings to discuss the search process and will, when timely and appropriate, present information regarding their work. Trustees have been very busy and involved in matters falling under its jurisdiction. They continue to gather information and study financial facts and figures as they research the prospective offers of the various bidders on the cell tower leases. Information will be presented to the membership when it is timely and appropriate to do so. Regarding the bigger issues concerning the refurbishing the Parish House for use as an early childhood education center: Trustees is involved in researching the variety of approaches in doing this work in accord with the various regulatory agencies and contractors with whom they have to consult and plan, while also considering all the financial pros and cons involved in undertaking the needs, wants, and abilities of those concerned, to meet them. All this has to be undertaken while also giving attention to the respective needs of the church and prospective tenant. Our Trustees have a lot on their plate, and with the assistance and guidance of the Interim Pastor, Rev. Susan Murtha, and the consultant, Robert Sheiman, on the project, have given a great deal of time, effort, and energy to this project with the prospect of much more to be done. Reports, I know, on their achievements and progress will be forthcoming to the membership when appropriate and timely.

Didn't some great thinker from past ages say something like: "All good things come to those who wait!" I think we should, for the moment, adopt such a posture. There is much being done by delegated members of our church in meetings, phone calls and planning sessions. Give them some time. All that is being done promises to have great potential for a very bright and sound future for our Church On The Green. So, I ask, with all due respect: "Just Wait!"

Respectfully And With Thanks To You All For Supporting Our Church,
Richard A. Prescott, Moderator



Scouting at FCCW



Troop 907, chartered by First church, spent the weekend of February 23-25 at Camp Whiting in Woodbridge. As part of the chilly and windy campout, scouts welcomed Webelos from Orange and West Haven who are thinking about which troop they might join when they graduate from the Webelos program. The troop also performed its annual flag retirement ceremony. This was a little earlier than normal with the special guests at camp. Please remember that if you have an old tattered American flag, the troop maintains the flag drop-off repository across from the blue mailbox outside Town Hall.

Scouts are presently working on their family life merit badges and preparing for a special Philadelphia trip later in March. Also, one scout is working toward his Eagle rank and all scouts are assisting him.

We are proud of a robust program and great scouts and adult leaders with Troop 907. Any interested potential scouts and parents are welcome to visit on Thursdays at 7:00 PM in the Parish House, rear entrance. More at troop907.org

Rich Forselius

Troop 907 Committee Chair and Chartered Organization Representative



Mark your calendars for these upcoming events

Hop Into Spring **BUNNY BASH!**

MARCH 16 10:15 AM - 12 NOON

LIVE MUSIC WITH MICHELE URBAN

**SCAVENGER HUNT, AWESOME GAMES
AND FANTASTIC CRAFTS**

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!



**PARISH HOUSE
5 MEETINGHOUSE LANE, WOODBRIDGE**

FOR MORE INFORMATION (203) 936-9356

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Aging as Spiritual Journey

a 3-part series

led by Rev. Clare Robert



Mondays, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
with soup & bread

January 22 Sharing stories of spiritual journey

We all have stories about our faith journey. And nested in these stories are our views of aging, our questions about life, our desire for the spiritual gifts of wisdom and self-acceptance, and others that ripen in our later years. How do we want to live and love, at this stage of life?

February 12 *The Gift of Years* by Joan Chittister

We will read several short chapters from this classic book about aging. Themes may include meaning, regret, joy, possibility, adjustment, freedom, time, wisdom, faith, letting go, learning.

March 4 Our legacy & becoming an Elder

We will continue to delve into *The Gift of Years* as we listen for its personal relevance and share our hopes for our continuing spiritual growth as we grow older. What kind of legacy do we hope to leave? And how can we continue to commit ourselves to the work of becoming an Elder – one who is wise to the ways of life and seeks to live as fully as possible during the time we are given?

Parish Hall

5 Meetinghouse Lane, Woodbridge CT

About Rev. Clare Robert: Most recently, Clare served Spring Glen Church in Hamden as Associate Pastor & Chaplain for over a decade and was named pastor emeritus upon her retirement in October 2023. She has a Master of Sacred Theology in ethics from Yale Divinity School and studied theology in Washington DC, Lyon France, and Geneva Switzerland. Beginning in 2018, Clare led an initiative at Spring Glen to provide older adults the opportunity to discuss the challenges we face as we age. Topics included spiritual autobiography, leaving a legacy, how to face change, the resources our faith provide as we navigate these years, and how can we continue to learn and grow at this stage of life. Clare brings all this experience and much more to our 3-part series in Woodbridge.

RVSP not required, but very appreciated: 203-936-9356 or PastorSusan@uccw.org

CONCERT - Moving Into Spring: Rachmaninoff to Gershwin

Please join us and bring your friends! On Saturday, March 16th at 3:00 p.m. the Music Committee will be hosting a concert in the sanctuary featuring our own Nenad Ivović on piano and Ethan Brown on cello. Nenad and Ethan will be performing pieces by Rachmaninoff and Gershwin. There will be a free will offering. If you have never come to one of these concerts, you will be amazed. They are both world renowned musicians and it is lovely to hear such music being played in our church! We are grateful for the generous gifts given by the late Paul DeCoster underwriting this and future concerts.

Nenad Ivović has won competitions throughout Central Europe and Russia. We are very proud of our music director, who now shines in New York. Having received his Master of Musical Arts (MMA) at Yale, Nenad is now a student of renowned pianist Julian Martin at the Julliard School of Music and a private student of world-famous pianist Emanuel Ax. Nenad is working on his Doctorate of Music at the City University of New York (CUNY).

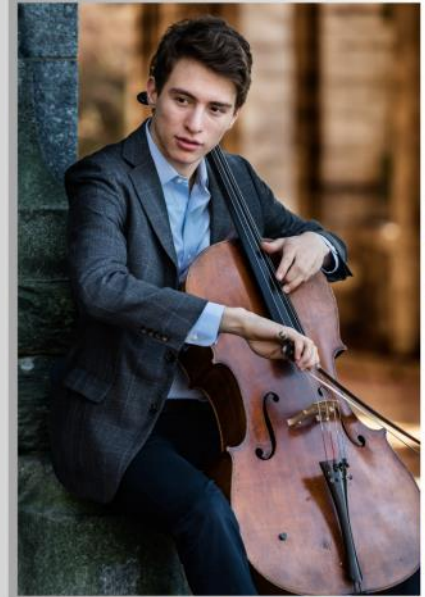
Ethan Brown is a cellist born and raised in New York City. Ethan has earned a Master's of Music from Rice University, a Bachelor's of Music from Northwestern University and is currently pursuing a DMA at the CUNY Graduate Center on a graduate fellowship. Through his graduate fellowship, Ethan began teaching as a part-time faculty member at Hunter College's Music Department in the Fall 2023 semester. Outside of teaching a small private studio of dedicated young cellists, Ethan performs frequently as a substitute for the orchestras of the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, and the Houston Symphony. Ethan has previously served as principal cellist for notable performances at the Tanglewood Music Center, Spoleto Festival USA, Aspen Music Festival, and the university symphony orchestras of Northwestern and Rice.

A reception will be held afterwards in the parish house. For more information, call the church office, 203-389-2119.

First Church of Christ **5 Meetinghouse Lane Woodbridge** *Moving into Spring* **Rachmaninoff to Gershwin** **Music Concert**



Nenad Ivovic



Ethan Brown

March 16th 3:00PM

Reception to follow

Free will offering

A Note from the Office

When I came to FCCW in May of 2023 I did so expecting that I would be around only until September of 2023. Now we're in March. This will be the last *Parishioner* that I prepare here. my last day is Friday March 1st. I have greatly enjoyed working with all of you in Woodbridge. I am now in the final process of my ordination in the UCC and am planning to complete it later this year. If you've spoken to me in the office you've likely heard me remark that I've learned a lot about how the sausage is made. Much of the work I've done at FCCW will be instrumental in my ministry career and I am grateful to have had this place to work in the time between my graduation and ordination. I wish you all the best and I will still be in Connecticut until the summer.

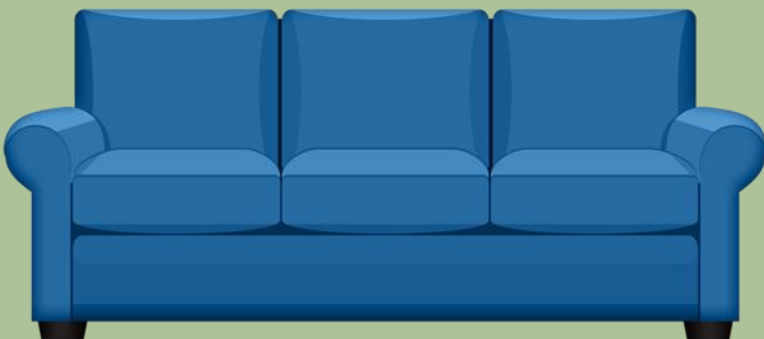
-Josh Sharp

Easter Flowers

Every Easter we decorate the sanctuary with plants donated by congregants. Enclosed you will find a copy of the form to fill out to order flowers. There are Easter lilies, tulips and daffodils available. Please leave completed forms with their payments in the office. All orders have to be submitted to the office with payment by March 25th at the latest. Additional order forms can be found in the Parish Hall or Sanctuary.

Home Furnishings and Home Furniture Collection

IRIS, in New Haven needs home furniture and furnishings. We at FCCW can help in this effort. Please call the church office and arrange to either drop items off at the Parish House, for IRIS to come and collect; or call us for making arrangements to drop items off at the IRIS office in New Haven. By going through our office, FCCW will be given acknowledgement for coordinating any and all contributions of items. This will be an ongoing project for FCCW and not just seasonal or one time in nature. If you have any questions, please call the FCCW office or Penny Rogers.




INTEGRATED REFUGEE
& IMMIGRANT SERVICES


**Donate your
Furniture**
Help us furnish refugee homes!

Let's downsize with a purpose!
IRIS will find the apartments (40 of them)
and
We will help furnish them
Please Donate

Tall Dressers
Dining Room Tables + Chairs
End Tables - Small Sofas - Rugs
Pots - Pans - Full Dish Sets - Glasses

Items will be picked up at your house by volunteers.
No lugging and hauling on your part.

Contact Penny Rogers
203-530-2486

FCCW OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Wednesday - Friday

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Weekly Bible Study

All are welcome to join our Weekly Bible Study every Wednesday morning at 11 a.m. in the Parish House.

Parishioner DEADLINE

*Articles and photos for the April edition of The Parishioner are due by Wednesday **March 20th** *Please submit materials by email. office@uccw.org
The earlier due date is for Holy Week*

Worship Service

Everyone is invited to gather at the Meetinghouse for the 10:00 a.m. service. For participation via ZOOM, Check the church website—uccw.org

Marking Life's Passages

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

KIDS CHURCH

**EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT
10:10
IN THE PARISH HOUSE!**

Printed copies of *The Parishioner* are always available in the office and on the UCCW website

If you would like to go paperless and only receive an emailed copy.

Contact Josh in the Office to be put on the list



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: Amanda O'Meara (office@uccw.org) (203) 389-2119
Sexton/Custodian: Bob Turner
Project Leader for Children's Ministries: Forest Vandeflor

March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:00am Musical Folk 2:00pm NMS	2 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:00Am AA Step-Work
3 10:10 Kid's Church 10:00am Worship 10:00 am AA 3:30 Girl Scouts	4 6:30 Pm church Council 7:30pm Lamppost Group AA Aging as Spiritual Journey 11:00 Am -1:30	5 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00pm Alateen 7:30Pm AA/Al-Anon	6 Musical Folk 9:30 Am 11:00am Bible Study 3:00pm NMS 7:00pm Search Committee	7 2:00pm NMS 7:00pm Boyscouts	8 10:00am Musical Folk 2:00pm NMS	9 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:00Am AA Step-Work
10 10:10 Kid's Church 10:00am Worship 10:00 am AA	11 7:30pm Lamppost Group AA	12 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00pm Alateen 7:30Pm AA/Al-Anon	13 Musical Folk 9:30 Am 11:00am Bible Study 3:00pm NMS 7:00pm Search Committee	14 2:00pm NMS 7:00pm Boyscouts 6:30 pm Deacons	15 10:00am Musical Folk 2:00pm NMS	16 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:00Am AA Step-Work 10:15am-12:00 Noon Bunny Bash 3:00 Classical Music Concert and Reception
17 10:10 Kid's Church 10:00am Worship 10:00 am AA 3:30 Girl Scouts	18 7:30pm Lamppost Group AA	19 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00pm Alateen 7:30Pm AA/Al-Anon	20 Musical Folk 9:30 Am 11:00am Bible Study 3:00pm NMS 7:00pm Search Committee	21 2:00pm NMS 7:00pm Boyscouts 6:30pm Trustees	22 10:00am Musical Folk 2:00pm NMS	23 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:00Am AA Step-Work
24 Palm Sunday 10:10 Kid's Church 10:00am Worship 10:00 am AA	25 7:30pm Lamppost Group AA	26 6:30 Choir Practice 7:00pm Alateen 7:30Pm AA/Al-Anon	27 Musical Folk 9:30 Am 11:00am Bible Study 3:00pm NMS 7:00pm Search Committee	28 Maundy Thursday 7:00pm Service 2:00pm NMS 7:00pm Boyscouts	29 Good Friday 10:00am Musical Folk 2:00pm NMS	30 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:00Am AA Step-Work
31 Easter Sunday 10:10 Kid's Church 10:00am Worship	Key Sanctuary Board Room Parish Hall Memorial Room Music Room Kitchen Online Kids' Church Room					