

THE PARISHIONER

October 2024

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

Stewardship 2024

Look Who's Watching

*

Put these things into practice, devote yourselves to them, so that all may see your progress.

Pay close attention to yourself and your teaching:

continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.”

-1 Timothy 4:15-16

A ministry colleague of mine was asked to recruit volunteers to collect contributions for the Salvation Army on a Saturday in December. The task was simple: for a couple of hours, stand beside a red bucket and ring a bell outside the local supermarket. To encourage others, my colleague felt he ought to take a turn. His experience was fascinating; in particular, he noticed two groups that responded in extraordinary numbers ...

1. One group was members of his church. He hopes they would have responded no matter who was ringing the bell, but all he could say for sure was that every church member who passed him put a contribution into the bucket.
2. The other group was adults who had children with them. The explanation seems clear enough: they knew that there were very important eyes on them. Knowing they were being observed by their children helped them to draw on the better angels of their nature. They became more generous than they would have been otherwise.

May this experience be a poignant reminder to all of us who have a special tie to a child: there is nothing we can give our children – no toy, trip, tuition – that is more important than the gift of our generosity to others. It is something that will not and cannot be taken away from them. And it will be etched into their being at a very deep level.

In this stewardship season, may we seize the opportunity to be generous as if young eyes are being trained on us because, well, as my colleague noted,... they are. And as the apostle Paul notes, putting our teachings into action will save both ourselves and our hearers!

In Christ,

Rev. Susan



FCCW CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT
October 2024

The FCCW Church Council met with a quorum present for its September meeting. Highlights thereof are: The Children's Ministry Program has a new Coordinator, Anna Haep. We welcome her and look forward to working with her in the future. The Church's Safe Church Policy is being reviewed and updated. We also welcomed a new Office Administrator, Jill Fahrback, who assumed her new position in August. The next "Steps" session later in September will provide an update on all on-going activities particularly Parish House renovations and cell tower leases. It was noted that with a full-time office administrator in place, all reports for Council meetings should be submitted to the office one week prior to any Council meeting.

All gardens on the grounds have and will continue to be worked on, with volunteer help. An inventory of furniture and property in the Parish House has begun, prior to renovations beginning. Some items will be kept and moved to other church locations, and some will be donated to other non-profit organizations. An addition to the FCCW Bylaws Glossary was introduced, discussed, and approved by vote. The language added was to clarify the definition of church personal property in order to make disposal thereof easier to decide upon.

The Stewardship Committee report noted that October was Stewardship Month and that Pledge letters, with pledge cards would be mailed to all members and friends. The yearly campaign and the pledges received contribute to the development of the next year's administrative and operational budgets. As Moderator, I sincerely ask that each of you seriously consider what you wish and are able to contribute to the financial support of our church. We are nearing the end of a long, long come back for our church. Pledge your continued financial support so that we can complete the tasks (steps) we began a few years ago. Thanks to all of you for all your time and effort in support of our Church On The Green.

Respectfully,
Richard A. Prescott, Moderator



We are on our way!!!

Every step a new beginning,
Every path a new adventure,
What a road we have traveled,
What a journey we are on!

Thanks for staying with us, supporting us, joining us, worshipping with us, laughing with us, being patient with us, staying for coffee hour with us. And thanks for hoping, praying and believing in us.

The First Church of Christ Woodbridge, UCC, is growing and changing. We have new people and new programs. We have innovations and renovations happening. Our older members have a new spring in their step. It feels good to be renewed and to look forward with eagerness to what is transpiring and improving. We're glad you're here. We hope you feel the spirit.

We are asking for your pledge for 2025. Pledges help us budget for the upcoming year. Please be as generous as you have always been. Or you can be more generous if you are inspired by our enthusiasm and commitment! All pledges are used to do good works and God's work. An excellent investment!

Please return your pledge cards in the envelope provided or bring them to church on November 3rd, Pledge Sunday, when we will dedicate all of our gifts. Thank you in advance, not just for your gifts but for the gift of you.

You are God's light shining!

Faithfully,

~The Stewardship Committee



2025 Budget Process – Budget Request Due Date

I am writing to notify church boards and committees that the budget requests for 2025 are due to Trustees by November 1, 2024. I also want to remind boards and committees that any funds budgeted for your group in 2024 that have not been spent by the end of the year **will not** fold over to your 2025 budget. The 2025 budgets will be created by Trustees in January after we have closed the 2024 books. Once created the budgets will then be approved by the Council and then by the Congregation at the January Congregational Meeting. Please submit your requests to Carl Lindskog or leave them in the church office by November 1st.

Roger Calistro, Chair of Board of Trustees

****For those who could not attend the Congregational Meeting on September 29, 2024, copies of the Annual Report are located in the church office. ****

Christmas Trimming Bee and Wreath-Making at the First Church of Christ, Saturday, December 7th at 2 pm.

You are cordially invited to make a wreath - or learn to make a wreath – which will decorate the church during the Christmas season. Fresh greens, wire frames, wire, and bows will be provided. **Please bring your own gloves and hand garden clippers/pruners.**

Families with youngsters are invited to hang artificial wreaths and place electric candles on each window in the sanctuary. Guidance will be provided.

The outside Christmas tree will light at dusk.

Deck the Halls!!





Gift to Choir in Memory of Dr. Miriam Birdwhistell

The Choir is pleased to announce that it recently received a gift in honor and memory of a former member, the late Miriam Birdwhistell, Ed.D. After a distinguished career as a leader in the social work profession, Dr. Birdwhistell retired from the

University of Virginia, well recognized as a political activist and dedicated leader in the women's movement in Virginia. Her career involved extensive world travel for cross cultural study of social work, and her retirement led her to lengthy stays in Woodbridge, home for her daughter Nan and family. During her time in Woodbridge Dr. Birdwhistell was a faithful and well regarded member of First Church. She delighted in singing with the choir and the current choir is delighted to remember her and to look forward to the acquisition of new music made possible by this gift: "Sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things"- Psalm 98. Many thanks to Nan and family.



BOO BASH

SATURDAY OCTOBER 12, 2024
10:30 AM - 12 NOON

SPOOKTACULAR CRAFTS
COME IN YOUR COSTUME
POKE-A-PUMPKIN

5 MEETINGHOUSE LANE
PARISH HOUSE
CONTACT: (203) 936-9356

Help Wanted

SEEKING A CO-COORDINATOR FOR OUR CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

SUNDAYS 10AM - 12 NOON

Located at **First Church of Christ**
5 Meetinghouse Lane
Woodbridge, CT 06525
(203) 389-2119

****Please call our church office for further details****



Troop 907 News

Your Scouting BSA troop 907 recently on Sunday September the 22nd had a hike with West Haven Pack 288. Held at the Racebrook Tract in Woodbridge and Orange, this is to provide visibility for the troop with the pack and potential scouts when they cross-over.

Scouts also camped at Battleship Cove (www.battleshipcove.org) in Fall River, Massachusetts the weekend of September 20-22. This is always a fun and educational event and the troop has visited Battleship Cove numerous times over the years.

October activities include a Woodbridge Camp Whiting Work Party. On Sunday October 27 from 8:00 AM to noon scouts and adults will be working at the town-owned Camp Whiting. This work in partnership with troop 63 includes maintenance tasks that are needed to keep the camp in top shape for year-round camping.

The biggest job is to make lots of firewood. This is mostly an adult event given the amount of power tools used but scouts will help with wheelbarrows, loading and moving wood and are responsible for their own protective gear (gloves, goggles, ear protection, etc.). The troop will also support an Orange pack 902 STEAM event on October 7. On October 18-20 the troop will be responsible for running the Quinipiac District fall camporee at Camp Sequassen.

Scouts wish to express appreciation to those who recently purchased chrysanthemums, the annual troop fall fundraiser. Looking forward, scouts and adult leaders have scheduled the Annual Pancake Breakfast in the Parish Hall on Saturday morning **December 7th**. Mark your calendar! This will be followed by a Court of Honor.

The troop meets Thursdays at 7:00 PM. Interested potential scouts and adults are always welcomed.

Best wishes,

Rich Forselius, Troop 907 Committee Chair/Chartered Organization Representative

forselius@snet.net

FCCW OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY

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

PARISHIONER DEADLINE

Articles and photos for the November edition of *The Parishioner* are due by Tuesday October 22nd
*Please submit materials by e-mail office@uccw.org

WORSHIP SERVICE

All are invited to gather in the Meetinghouse for our 10:00 a.m. worship service. For participation via Zoom, See our website - uccw.org

MARKING LIFE'S PASSAGES

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

Printed copies of *The Parishioner* are always available in the church office and on our church's website

If you would like to go paperless and only receive an emailed copy, contact the church office

KIDS CHURCH

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



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: Jill Fahrback (office@uccw.org) (203) 389-2119
Sexton/Custodian: Bob Turner
Coordinator for Children's Ministries: Anna Haep

October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 10:00 am Worship 10:00am AA 10:10 am Kids Play 3:30 am Girl Scouts	30 7:30 pm Lamp Post Group AA 7:00 pm Search Committee	1 9:30 am Musical Folk 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm AA 7:30 pm AI-Anon	2 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk 11:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Neighborhood Music School 7:00 pm Woodbridge Park Assoc.	3 2:00 pm Neighborhood Music School 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	4	5 9:30 am Musical Folk
6 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am AA 10:10 am Kids Church	7 1:00 pm Neighborhood Music School 6:00 pm Church Council 7:30 pm Lamp Post Group AA 7:00 pm Search Committee	8 9:30 am Musical Folk 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm AA 7:30 pm AI-Anon	9 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk 11:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Neighborhood Music School	10 2:00 pm Neighborhood Music School 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	11	12 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Boo Bash Family Event
13 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am AA 10:10 am Kids Church 3:30 pm Girl Scouts	14 1:00 pm Neighborhood Music School 7:30 pm Lamp Post Group AA 7:00 pm Search Committee	15 9:30 am Musical Folk 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm AA 7:30 pm AI-Anon	16 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk 11:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Neighborhood Music School	17 2:00 pm Neighborhood Music School 6:30 pm Deacons 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	18	19 9:30 am Musical Folk
20 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am AA 10:10 am Kids Church	21 1:00 pm Neighborhood Music School 7:30 pm Lamp Post Group AA 7:00 pm Search Committee	22 9:30 am Musical Folk 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm AA 7:30 pm AI-Anon	23 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk 11:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Neighborhood Music School	24 2:00 pm Neighborhood Music School 6:30 pm Trustees 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	25	26 9:30 am Musical Folk
27 10:00 am Worship 10:00 am AA 10:10 am Kids Church 3:30 pm Girl Scouts	28 1:00 pm Neighborhood Music School 7:30 pm Lamp Post Group AA 7:00 pm Search Committee	29 9:30 am Musical Folk 6:30 pm Choir Practice 7:30 pm AA 7:30 pm AI-Anon	30 9:30 am Musical Folk 10:30 am Musical Folk 11:00 am Bible Study 2:00 pm Neighborhood Music School	31 2:00 pm Neighborhood Music School 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	1	2 9:30 am Musical Folk

Key
 Sanctuary, Board Room, Parish Hall, Kids' Church Room, Memorial Room, Music Room, Kitchen, Online