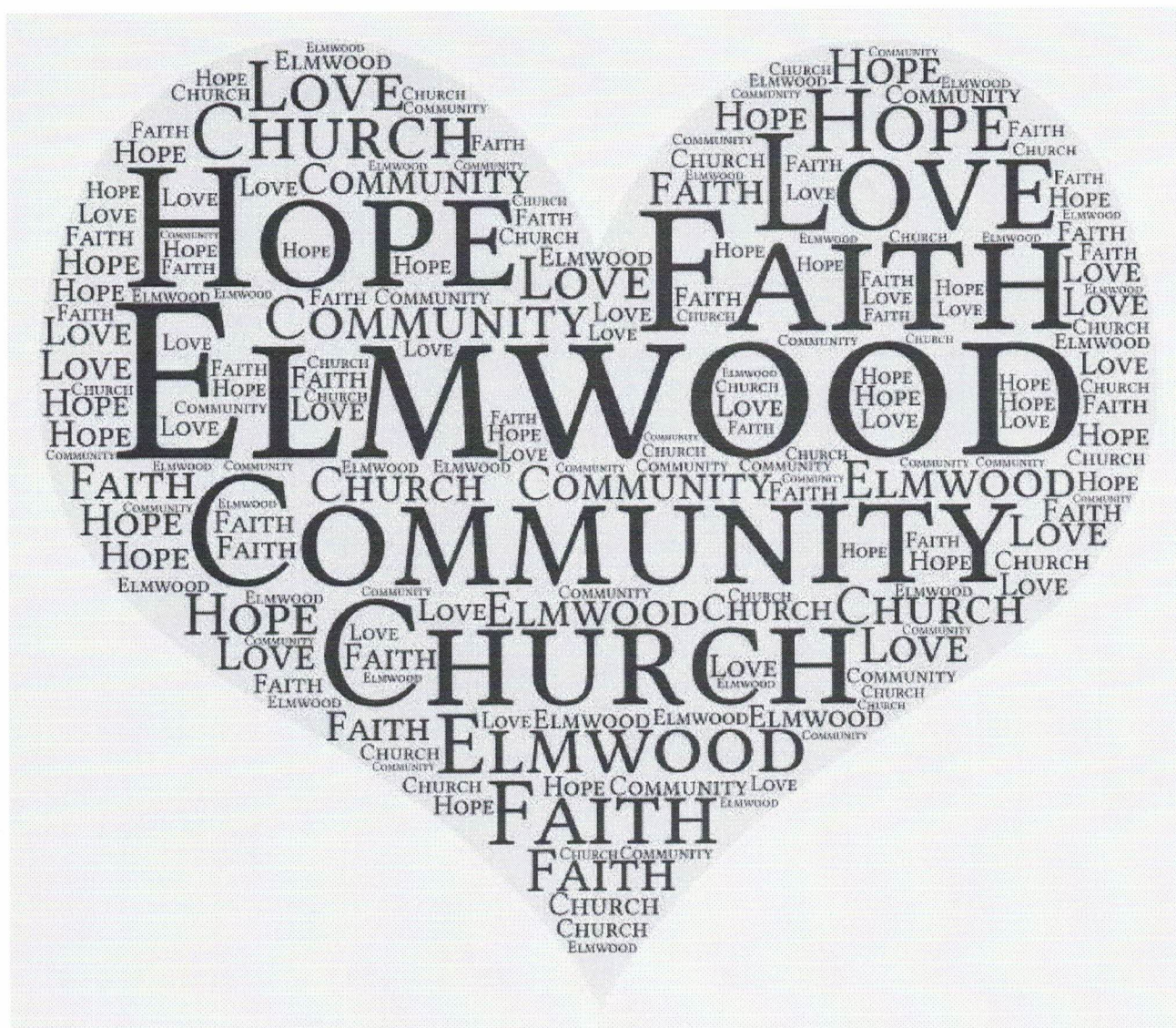


Elmwords



Council Moderator's Report

Monday, December 21, 2020

In attendance: Cindy Gauthier, Colleen Peterson, Jerry Gray – in person, Bill Alberti, Susan Wiley, Wendy Leonard, Gail O'Connor – by Zoom

Meeting called to order at 6:37 pm

Colleen opened the meeting with a prayer and scripture reading from the gospel of Luke 1:37 "For nothing will be impossible for God." This passage spoke to me because God gave us the impossible, His Son, Jesus at this blessed season of joy! Who are we not to believe that He will also give our small family of faith our future? Prayer: God, in this joyous season at the end of a most difficult year, help us believe! Restore our hope in You in Jesus' name. Amen.

Minutes for November were reviewed and accepted.

Deacon's Report - Jerry Gray

- Continued prayers for Craig Croxall and Charles Shorter.
- Pat MacDougall passed away Saturday, December 19, 2020. A memorial will be held later next year.
- Indoor & online services – this past Sunday the live broadcast wouldn't start. Jerry had to record it and posted later in the day. There are some concerns regarding volume and that is being worked on. Also, getting comments that people can't hear Wendy Leonard on-line. Jerry is trying to get a longer neck for the microphone to help this issue.
- Jerry called California again regarding the website and hasn't heard back from them in two weeks. He will reach out to them again. It is almost built. Thankfully we haven't had to pay for any of this yet.
- Christmas Sunday service was lovely. We had 20 poinsettias, 17 wreaths and 23 people attended. Rowan O'Connor brought the baby Jesus up to the creche. Madelyn O'Connor did a very nice job lighting the last Advent candle and reading about the Shepherd's candle.

Christian Ed – Gail O'Connor

- Christmas cards were made after the November 29th service by several church members. Barbara T. mailed them out last Friday.
- Gail gave Barbara T. some website links for fun Advent activities to put in Elmwords.

Missions -Cindy Gauthier

- South Park Inn is having a website/computer issue and the calendar for 2021 is still not available. Charlie advised to try back after the holidays.
- Cindy & Haley Gauthier, her friends Victoria & Matt Bragg and their daughter Peyton made and delivered the dinner to South Park on November 22nd. The Bragg's donated

all of the food so no money was needed from the Mission's budget. Matt roasted turkeys and we all peeled a lot of potatoes and made a Thanksgiving Shepard's Pie. The soap sacks that Gail & Wendy made were also dropped off and the residents were very happy to receive them. This can be a continuing donation.

- Susan still has not heard back from WH Social Services regarding the collection of mittens, etc. or doing the Adopt-A-Family this year. She will keep trying.

Trustees – Bill Alberti

- Currently five groups renting the church.
- Mark Janas put together a 2021 budget that includes rental of parsonage – which has not yet been rented. Expenses are down \$44,000 from last year not having a full-time pastor and related benefit expenses. That number takes into account what we are currently paying Rev. Janet Stoddard for Sundays and parish care. Income is also down both in rentals due to Covid-19 and in pledging.
- Anticipate taking \$32,000 out of the Barnum Fund next year as opposed to \$80,000 last year.
- Susan Wiley is working incredibly hard on renting the parsonage. To date: 61 internet inquiries, 19 agent showings as of 12/15 and 3 applications one of which has 2 children and another from a pastor with 4 children whose agent keeps trying to get the rent under \$2,000. Trustees are being super careful about picking a good tenant as once someone moves in, it is very difficult to remove them should they not be able to make rent. Again, thank you to Susan for her continued hard work.
- The dead tree was removed from the parsonage property.
- Locks for the parsonage garage and porch were repaired.
- New Sexton, Judy Williams is terrific!
- We received but did not sign a contract from Precise Landscaping as despite being very good, they are very expensive. Asked the people CVS uses but they only do commercial properties. We will continue to pay Precise Landscaping until we can find someone less expensive.
- We also now have heat in the church. Hartford Boiler spent the good part of several days repairing the furnace and replacing parts. Don't yet know what we will be charged but we are grateful to have them. Many thanks to the Marshall family!

Controller's Report – Susan Wiley

- Financial Summary 2020 through November passed out. So far \$33,139 in pledge income. \$45,000 taken from principal of Barnum Fund.
- YTD income \$111,578 vs expenses \$130,501 leaving a \$18,923 deficit until we can rent the parsonage.
- October expenses down to \$7,563 without salary, benefits and other expenses of a full-time pastor from \$12,835 in September.

Member at Large - Wendy Leonard – No report. Daysha Haxton-Not present, no report.

Old Business –

- Stewardship as of 12/20/20 – We received \$35,529 in pledge income 2020. For 2021 \$33,966 pledged so far with only 6 pledges outstanding. As of 11/30/20, the Barnum Fund was at \$176,608. Went up \$10,000 over the month of October.
- Thank you to those who have pledged. Pledge cards are available if needed.
- Cindy got a call on her way home from last month's Council meeting from David Clymer @ Grace Church. He advised that the Elders have decided to stay where they were currently meeting at Truth Baptist in South Windsor. He will let us know if anything changes.
- Annual meeting postponed until the 2nd quarter of 2021. Update will be provided in March.

New Business –

- Good news!! Council has hired Rev. Janet Stoddard as a part-time designated interim through Easter Sunday, April 4, 2021. Details are being worked out but we are excited to have her continue with us for a few more months and provide us with some continuity.
- On Sunday, December 20th @ 11:00 am Rev. Janet Stoddard, Cindy Gauthier, Jerry Gray, Susan Wiley and Colleen Peterson met over Zoom with Regional Minister Rev. Tamara Mooreland to discuss direction and next steps for ECC to take. She recommended we hire Janet whose main focus would be to facilitate whichever of the following three processes Council presents to the congregation to vote on.
 1. Transplant – we move ourselves as a congregation/church family into another church.
 2. Closure.
 3. Merger – we and another church combine, share a pastor and a building but keep our congregations distinct.
- We need to do financial projections for this year and next. We need to determine our “why” and in discussion with Tamara it was clear that we have a lot of long-time members who we really care about that have grown up with the church and don't want to see it close. We also have a lot of need in our neighborhood and newcomers to our church are often looking for help. Our “why” sounds like “caring for our community” both within and without the church.
- As a first step, we could share ministries with another, similar congregational church such as the Newington Church. Tamara thinks they and we are a good fit theologically and otherwise. We keep our own identity as ECC but pay to share Bible Study, Confirmation Classes, youth programs with them. This fills a need on our part and also allows us to get to know each other as congregations. That way, should we decide to transplant the congregation, there is already a shared history.

- There is the possibility of applying for a UCC Crossroads “Faith for the Future” grant of up to \$5,000 (to be paid back) with a deadline of January 15, 2021. We will be discussing this further with Pastor Janet.
- Next Zoom meeting with Rev. Tamara Mooreland is Sunday, 1/10/21 @ 11:00 am.

Upcoming Events –

- None

Meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm

Next council meeting scheduled for Monday, January 18, 2021 at 6:30 pm both in person and by Zoom

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Gauthier, Moderator

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

JANUARY/FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

January

04 Melissa Cunningham
08 Cynthia Pavey
08 Patrick Nobou, Sr.
19 Frank Nobou
21 Rowan O'Connor
26 Beth Gustafson
28 Rhoda DeBonnee
Anniversaries
19 Brian & Christine Cardalico

February

05 Madelyn O'Connor
09 Michael McLarney
12 Tim Coffin
15 Robert Bucchere
17 Judy Janas
19 Sharon Lamb
21 Carl Moskey
22 Charles Peterson

Bible Study



There is no Bible Study until further notice
due to the pandemic.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual meeting is postponed until the
2nd quarter of 2021.

Updates will be provided in March.
Council is working hard and appreciates
your patience.

SYMPATHY

It is with sadness that we inform you that
we have lost two dear and devoted church
members.

Eugene Knorr passed away on
Wednesday, November 25, 2020. Gene
was an active member of the church and
served as Financial Secretary for over 40
years. Donations may be made to
Elmwood Community Church, 26
Newington Road, West Hartford, CT 06110
or The Fernleigh Lawn Bowling Club, 35
Lancaster Road, West Hartford, CT 06119.

Pat MacDougall passed away on
Saturday, December 12. She was a
dedicated church member for over 50
years. serving on almost every church
board. She could be found each year
cooking lunch at the Holiday Fair, working
on the annual summer Tag Sale,
Strawberry Festival and chicken BBQ.
She loved her church and all of those in it.
A celebration gathering will be held in the
spring. Donations may be made in her
name to Elmwood Community Church, 26
Newington Road, West Hartford, CT 06110
or Wounded Warriors. Her obituary was
in the Hartford Courant
<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/hartford-courant/obituary.aspx?n=patricia-macdougall&pid=197365892>



The Alberti and Knorr family would like to
extend our deepest gratitude for all the
beautiful cards and donations to the church
in Dad's name. Elmwood Community
Church has always played a significant
role in our lives and especially to Dad in
his role as financial secretary for forty
years. Your thoughtfulness has meant so
much to our family.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE



REV. JANET STODDARD

Good news!! Council has hired Rev. Janet Stoddard as a part-time designated interim pastor through Easter Sunday, 4/4/2021. Details are being worked out, but we are excited to have her continue with us for a few more months and provide us with some continuity.

Rev. Janet Stoddard started her life down the street in Newington and grew up on a small farm off of Fenn Road with her sister and two brothers. She showed steers in 4-H and went to Newington Schools. Church of Christ Congregational was foundational in forming her faith as were her parents and attending Silver Lake Conference Center. She attended Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania and graduated with a BA in History. Working at the Episcopal Camp and Conference Center in Ivoryton during the summers (now Incarnation Camp) after graduation and camp, she traveled to England and worked as a nanny in Stoke Ferry for six months and then backpacked with a friend from camp for 6 weeks around Europe. Janet attended Andover Newton Theological School in Newton Center, MA and quit to work for two chiropractors and then a dentist finally returning to Andover Newton to finish her Master of Divinity degree after a number of years working. Soon after graduation Janet began working as the Protestant

campus minister at CCSU in New Britain and Ordained October 1999. While working at CCSU, she began doing per diem chaplaincy at the Hospital for Special Care (HFSC) which is a long term acute care facility in New Britain. That moved into part time work, and she has now served there for 21 years. After finishing her 4th unit of clinical pastoral education, Janet started working part time at Avery Heights as a contracted Chaplain while continuing to serve part time at HFSC. Janet likes to read, watch PBS, visit with friends, travel, (especially cruises with her sister but not during COVID) and take walks with her dog Toby. Janet is enjoying getting to know the people of Elmwood Community Church and providing support and discernment while sharing the Love of God with all people.

MISSIONS

There will be a Souper collection taken on super bowl Sunday. Proceeds will go to West Hartford food pantry.

The Mitten Tree items will be delivered to West Hartford Social Services in January

The coats will be delivered during the winter to South Park when we serve dinner.

Please continue bringing in your food donations all year - these are brought to the West Hartford Food Pantry

The 2021 South Park Inn dinners are not yet available.

WH Family Services gave us a last minute call the week of Christmas for an Adopt a Family for a Mom, 17 and 11 yr old boys and twin 7 year olds (boy/girl). Susan Wiley, Cindy Gauthier, Gail O'Connor and Colleen Peterson scrambled to get the gifts requested, and they were delivered to WH Family Services on time. Great Job!

Carol Alberti

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

STEWARDSHIP AS OF **12/20/2020**

We received \$35,529 in pledge income for 2020.

For 2021, \$33,966 has been pledged so far with only six pledges outstanding.

Thanks you to those who have pledged. Pledge cards are available if needed.

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NEW WEBSITE!

SAINTS BE PRAISED!! We have a NEW website!!!

We are pleased to announce that we have a new website for the Elmwood Community Church. We have partnered with UCCWEBSITES.ORG to develop and host a new website for our church. It has been a year in coming, but with shutdowns due to COVID-19 and server issues and many other distractions we finally got it done. You can check it out at

www.elmwoodchurch.net

There is still some work to be done on it, but we welcome your feedback. Most of the site is able to be edited so let us know what is messed up.

Oh, and our Sunday worship broadcasts on Facebook are available live on the web page.

We have to thank the good people at UCCWEBSITES.ORG for all their hard work and perseverance for the past year.

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We collect food items for the West Hartford Food Pantry each week. Each Sunday of the month will have a different theme.

First Sunday: Dinner Basics: canned fish and meats (stew, ravioli) baked beans

Second Sunday: Kids Favorites: cereal, granola bars, mac & cheese, peanut butter & jelly

Third Sunday: Fruity Feast: canned and jarred fruit, dried fruit, fruit cups, jelly & jam

Fourth Sunday: Exciting Extras: fun stuff: coffee, tea, cooking oil, condiments

Fifth Sunday: Most Wanted: pasta sauce, rice, cereal, canned meat, peanut butter

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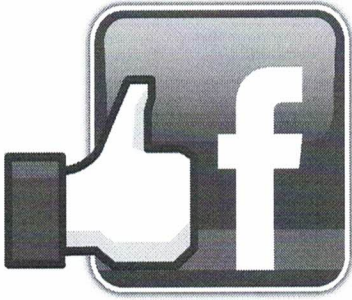
The New Year

Dear Lord, as this new year is born
I give it to Thy hand,
Content to walk by faith what paths
I cannot understand.
Whatever coming days may bring
Of bitter loss, or gain,
Or every crown of happiness;
Should sorrow come, or pain,
Or, Lord, if all unknown to me
Thine angel hovers near
To bear me to that farther shore
Before another year,
It matters not — my hand in Thine,
Thy light upon my face,
Thy boundless strength when I am weak,
Thy love and saving grace!
I only ask, loose not my hand,
Grip fast my soul, and be
My guiding light upon the path
Till, blind no more, I see!

--Martha Snell Nicholson

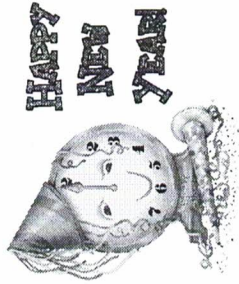
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ON A PERSONAL NOTE



*BE SURE TO LIKE
ECC ON FACEBOOK*





JANUARY 2021



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Happy New Year OFFICE CLOSED	2
3	4	5 6:30 pm Deacons	6	7	8	9
10 11 am Christian Ed	11	12	13 6:30 pm Trustees	14	15	16
17 9 am Missions	18 6:30 pm Council	19 Newsletter Articles Due	20	21	22	23
24 Newsletter Published	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

The Elmwood Community Church
26 Newington Road
West Hartford, CT 06110
860-233-8203 fax: 860-233-4202
Secretary's e-mail: eccsecretary@snet.net
Pastor's e-mail: elmwoodchurch@snet.net

PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY
DATED MATERIAL

**IF YOU NO LONGER WANT TO RECEIVE THIS
PUBLICATION, PLEASE NOTIFY ECC AT THE
NUMBER ABOVE. THANK YOU!**

DATES TO REMEMBER

THERE IS NO BIBLE STUDY OR CHOIR PRACTICE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**THESE ARE TENTATIVE DATES. DURING THE PANDENIC, MOST BOARDS ARE
HAVING VIRTUAL MEETINGS.**

**JANUARY 1
JANUARY 5
JANUARY 10
JANUARY 13
JANUARY 17
JANUARY 18
JANUARY 19
JANUARY 24**

**NEW YEARS DAY (OFFICE CLOSED)
6:30 PM DEACONS
11 AM CHRISTIAN ED
6:30 PM TRUSTEES
11 AM MISSIONS
6:30 PM COUNCIL
NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE
ELMWORDS PUBLISHED**