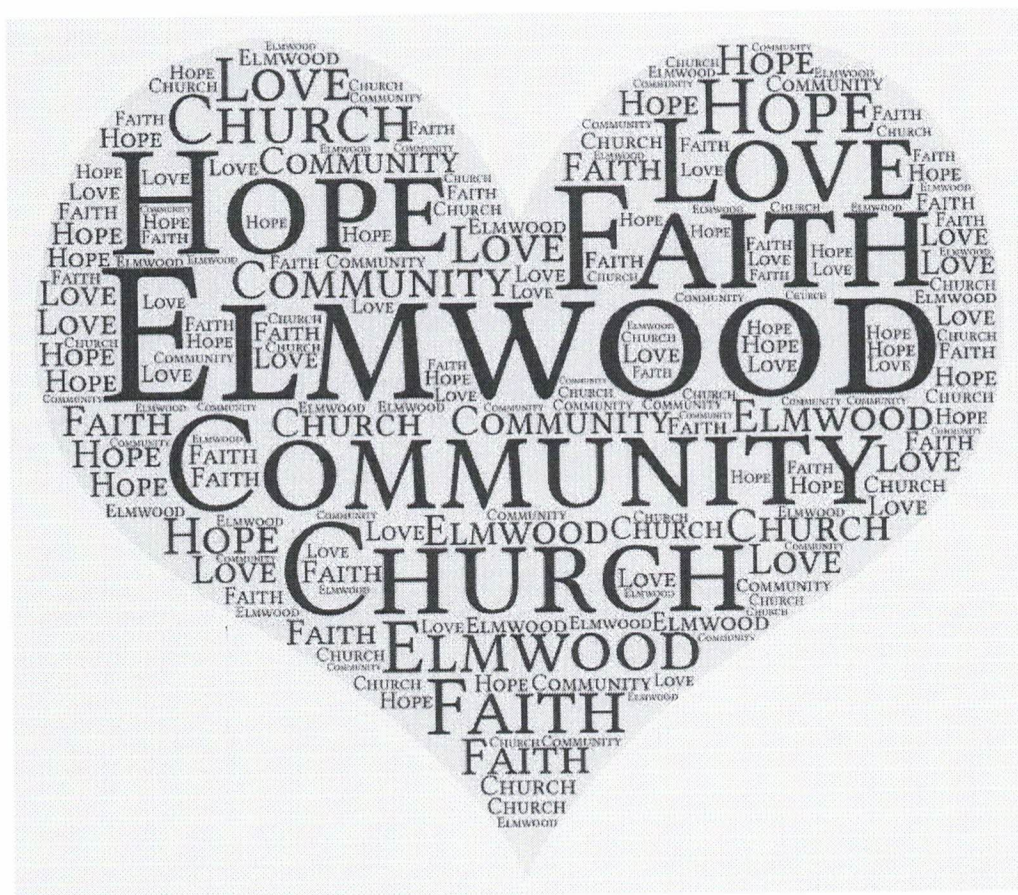


Elmwords



Council Moderator's Report

July 13, 2020

In attendance: Cindy Gauthier, Susan Wiley, Colleen Peterson, Jerry Gray, Gail O'Connor, Bill Alberti, Pastor Dave Congdon

Pastor Dave opened the meeting at 6:36 p.m. with a scripture reading from Romans 8:28 and a prayer. "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." God works in everything. Things can seem good, bad, or otherwise but God is always there. He works to bring good in and through everything. Think of Good Friday where Jesus was crucified – horrible. Then think of Easter three days later where Christ is risen – miraculous and wonderful! With God, things always work out. Amen.

Due to the global pandemic of a corona virus called Covid-19, this is our first in-person Council meeting since February as the state and most of the nation was shut down to try and contain the virus. Council held a virtual meeting April 20th and a combination of Minutes/Moderator's notes was published in Elmwords to inform the congregation on what the church was doing. We are also enduring an extended heatwave.

February and April minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dave

- Keep Charles Shorter, Craig Croxall and Gene Knorr in your prayers.
- Ginger Croxall has fully moved into the Grove St. house and is helping her brother Craig.
- Gene Knorr is now in the memory care unit at Avery.
- Al Rakus, our sexton, died. His brother Rich would like any items he had at the church and Pastor Dave will see to that. Susan W. sent Rich a personal card. Will ask Cynthia Pavey to send him a card from the church.
- Our first outdoor service on 7/12 worked well.

(Susan made motion. Jerry seconded. Report accepted.)

Deacon's Report: Jerry Gray

- Jerry and Pastor Dave ran a trial run outdoor service on Thursday 7/9. Unfortunately, the camera was in a metal case and being out in the sun for two hours, it got fried. Jerry ordered a new camera. Used his phone on 7/12 to record the service but the video cut out after 20 minutes due to the heat. Next Sunday he'll have his deck umbrella to shade himself and the equipment. Will also move the electronic piano over by the hedgerow in the shade as poor Jerry Bilak fried on 7/12.
- Jerry B. will be on vacation for three weeks. Colleen Peterson will play piano next Sunday 7/19 and James O'Connor will play guitar the following two Sundays to cover.
- Pastor Dave's daily messages are continuing on-line, and if the weather is bad on a Sunday, will record Pastor Dave inside the Fellowship Room as before.
- Our new website is still under its test name. With the virus, everything is super back-logged. Jerry did a test broadcast on Facebook.

(Susan made motion. Gail seconded. Report accepted.)

Christian Ed Report: Gail O'Connor

- Pancake supper went well.
- Thankfully had not ordered supplies for Easter. Phew.
- Found better bibles on-line and ordered one. Can do a google meet for Haley and Gabby.

(Susan made motion. Jerry seconded. Report accepted.)

Missions Report: Cindy Gauthier

- Next South Park dinner is 7/19. Cindy & Carol Alberti will be making pasta salad and hot dogs at church to drop off along with sandwiches and cookies.
- Daysha, James and Frank have volunteered to help.
- Remaining South Park dinners will be 9/20 & 11/22.

(Gail made motion. Bill seconded. Report accepted.)

Trustees Report: Bill Alberti

- Short and Long-term rentals status: Fresh Start has begun meeting in Conte Hall.
- No repairs have been done.
- Kyle Cunningham is mowing the lawns.
- Need to hire a new sexton. Pastor Dave will empty waste baskets in the interim.

(Jerry made motion. Gail seconded. Report accepted.)

Controller's Report: Susan Wiley

- Despite no church services, received \$4,000 in pledges in April. Less in May (\$2,600) and June (\$2,000).
- \$20,000 was taken from the Barnum Fund in April
- \$17,750 was received from the federal government under their Paycheck Protection Program. Thank you to Mark Janas for that!
- Ended May with \$3,400 surplus. Ended June with a \$5,000 deficit.

(Jerry made motion. Bill seconded. Report accepted.)

Member at Large Report:

Wendy Leonard – Not present, no report. Daysha Haxton – Not present, no report.

Discussion:

Pastor Dave accepted a call to a church in Massachusetts. He is starting the new position October 1st. His last Sunday with us will be August 30th. We are sad that he is leaving us and sadder still that despite all our best efforts over the last 10 years, we have not been able to increase membership or income to be able to continue to sustain a full-time pastor. We are, however, very happy that Pastor Dave found full-time employment, despite his wishing he could have stayed with us until he retired.

What to do next:

- Susan asked Trustees to take a look at the general finances and see if our income can meet expenses without a full-time pastor. Parsonage would sell for about \$150,000.
- Bill asked if we can rent the parsonage to a business like a dentist or accountant? Susan explained that would require a zoning change which WH is very reluctant to do.

- Jerry will get in touch with Tamara Mooreland regarding next steps. Each interim has their own specialty, e.g. membership, finances, and can help us move forward.
- Trustees need to figure out a budget and determine how much of the income pie can be used toward an interim so we can determine whether we can afford a full-time interim or part-time interim, or just supply pulpits.

Upcoming Events

- None due to virus.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Next meeting TBD

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Peterson, Church Clerkfor

Cindy Gauthier, Church Moderator

Council Moderator's Report

August 11, 2020

In attendance: Cindy Gauthier, Susan Wiley, Colleen Peterson, Jerry Gray, Bill Alberti, Pastor Dave Congdon

Since our July meeting, Hurricane Isaias went up the East coast further inland than initially expected. New England got little rain but lots of wind damage and power outages. West Hartford was without power for nearly a week for some and longer for others. All this during the continuing oppressive heatwave. 2020 has been quite the year so far and it's not over yet.

Pastor Dave opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m. with a scripture reading from Genesis 12:1-3 and a prayer. He chose this passage in thinking about his own new journey come October. "Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

This is the first example of having faith in God. Abram started out not knowing how it would end. Yet he gave us the Old Testament which gave us the New Testament and Jesus. This passage tells us to go from your settled life, from where you are, to a future you don't know. It says to BEGIN, then follow and what happens, happens. A full faith, a mature faith lets us trust God so we can begin and then again trust that God will guide us into a future filled with grace and joy. Amen.

July minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dave

- Charles Shorter is doing well and has been at Sunday services. Ginger Croxall is doing fine and Craig Croxall is hanging in. Please keep them and Gene Knorr in your prayers.
 - Dave swept and mopped Conte Hall floor for the dance troupe meeting there tomorrow.
- (Colleen made motion. Jerry seconded. Report accepted.)

Deacon's Report: Jerry Gray

- Outdoor services have been going well with the last few going very well. They are being well received both by those who attend and those who watch online.
 - Thank you to Colleen who played piano for a service and to Jamie O'Connor who played his guitar for one service to cover Jerry Bilak's vacation. Both did a great job!
 - The weather has held up so far for outdoor services.
 - No response from contact in California for the new website. CA is being slammed with Covid-19 and wildfires so don't know when we'll hear from them.
 - Garden has been growing: cherry tomatoes, yellow squash and zucchini, six basil plants so help yourself to basil, cucumbers and all. There are few beans. Suspect rabbits.
 - Edie & Jerry collected about 100 gallons of black walnuts from the Memorial Garden making multiple trips to Brixton (the dump). Major thanks to both of them!!
 - Pastor Dave picked up lots of branches around the church property after Hurricane Isaias. Rick Coler and Jerry Gray got them to the curb for the town to pick up.
- (Susan made motion. Bill seconded. Report accepted.)

Christian Ed Report: Gail O'Connor (not present and no report)

Missions Report: Cindy Gauthier

- Dropped off South Park dinner 7/19. Cindy & Carol Alberti made pasta salad & hot dogs at church. Edie-sandwiches. Pastor Dave-cookies. Miss going in and serving people.
- Remaining South Park dinners will be 9/20 & 11/22.

(Jerry made motion. Susan seconded. Report accepted.)

Trustees Report: Bill Alberti

- Hiring Frank Nobou to be the church sexton. Need to revise old job description.
- After info from Susan W. on selling vs. renting the parsonage, Trustees decided the better option was to rent. While Pastor Dave is still living there, work can be done on the outside without disturbing him. Need to power-wash the house and kill/pull all the weeds. Once Dave has moved out, the inside needs a deep cleaning, wallpaper needs to be taken off the dining room walls and the interior needs a fresh coat of paint. Susan will pass along the name of her handyman for some of the projects. Need to set a budget and prioritize the projects to be done within set budget.

(Jerry made motion. Susan seconded. Report accepted.)

Controller's Report: Susan Wiley

- Lost power & internet for a week. No reports.

(Colleen made motion. Jerry seconded. Report accepted.)

Member at Large Report:

Wendy Leonard – Not present, no report. Daysha Haxton – Not present, no report.

Discussion:

Jerry Gray did get in touch with our Regional Minister, Tamara Mooreland. She suggested we get an Extended Supply Minister (ESM) for 60 days. They cost \$200-\$250/week. They do Sunday services and some pastoral stuff during the week, perhaps coming into the office one day a week. An ESM will help guide us to the next step. This is an "in the meantime thing" that will give us a couple months breathing room to figure out what we do next, e.g. do we want to get an interim or go to a part-time pastor.

She has two people in mind for us, one of which just finished interim minister training, that she will contact and she promised we would have an ESM by September 1st. She also recommended that we take Labor Day Sunday 9/6 off and start on Sunday 9/13.

She left for a 2-week vacation yesterday and will be back on 8/24. She wants to meet with Deacons, Moderator and Pastoral Relations Committee when she returns. She will meet with the congregation at the end of September.

She recommended we read Sections One and Two of a UCC document on Transitions and New Beginnings. Jerry has only been able to find Section Two. He will keep looking.

There will be an exit interview with Pastor Dave using a prepared list of questions.

Pastor Dave has “the book” with the Service of Release. He has already made copies of it. Conference minister(s) will be in on this Service 8/30.

Tamara said we were in a good place despite our financial situation. This is because we already have an on-line presence, and we are calling everyone in the congregation and communicating with people. A lot of people are watching the on-line services. A lot of churches who are also in a tough spot financially are not even on-line, and not necessarily well-known in their communities.

We are known in the community as we do South Park Inn dinners, participate in town parades, neighborhood clean-up days, Habitat for Elmwood, community food events (Strawberry Festival and Chicken BBQ), Little Free Library on the property, donations to the WH Food Pantry, and so on. Many thanks to Missions and to Susan Wiley for making our presence in the community known, as well as all congregation members who work hard at various events. Colleen noted that we are like the scene in Dr. Seuss’ “Horton Hears a Who”: “We are here. We are here. We are here.”

At this point Council asked Pastor Dave to leave the meeting.

The other thing Tamara said we need to do is to celebrate Pastor Dave. We agreed on doing an outside Coffee Hour. A letter has already been sent out to the congregation to take up a collection as a farewell gift. People were asked to send in notes and memories to put into a scrapbook, which Kirsten Peterson is coordinating.

Upcoming Events

- Pastor Dave’s last Sunday with us on August 30th.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next meeting TBD

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Peterson, Church Clerk for

Cindy Gauthier, Church Moderator

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

**SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER
BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES**

September

02 Rosli Glista
19 Trevor Bryden
20 Cynthia Carter
21 Ron Linstruth
22 Layne Brown
25 Liam Collins
26 Susan Giaccotto
27 Heather McLarney
30 Brian Cardalico
Anniversaries
19 Kristina & Bruce Wittchen
21 Gail & Mark O'Conner

October

04 David Congdon
04 Grayson Carter
06 James O'Connor
20 Barbara Hesse
24 Kriss Brown
24 Patrick Nobou (younger)
28 Mason Cardalico
29 Christine Cardalico
Anniversaries
09 Sharon & David Lamb
16 Deb & Carl Moskey
21 Daysha Haxton & Ron Linstruth

**DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, THE
FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE
CANCELLED UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

Rally Sunday
Park Road Parad3
Bible Study
Choir Practice
Holiday Bazaar
Blessing of the Animals



MISSIONS

The following 2020 dates are to serve dinner at South Park Inn:

**September 20
November 26**

We are looking for donations of sandwiches or sandwich fixings and/or cookies for September 20th. Please drop off any donations at the church between 9:30 and 11 a.m. Please contact Carol Alberti at pier224@aol.com with any questions.



The office is closed for now. Barbara is working from home and coming in occasionally to take care of issues. You can reach Barbara at 860-978-2246.

WE HAVE A NEW SEXTON!

We have replaced the Sexton position with one of our own! Frank Nobou will be filling the position which is part time. We are grateful to have him help maintain our beautiful church. Welcome Frank!

ON A PERSONAL NOTE



If anyone becomes aware of a church member that is sick or has any special needs, please call the office (860-233-8203) and leave a message.

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OUTDOOR SERVICES

Starting **July 12, 2020, at 9 a.m.**, we will hold our somewhat usual Sunday worship outside the church. We will meet in the area between the church and the parsonage. There will be some standard rules to follow:

- Masks need to be worn
- Bring your own chair. There will be markings for social distancing
- Bulletins will be available, but will be sent in advance if you prefer to read on your phone or tablet.
- Bring your own Bible if you want to read along with the scriptures
- There will be musical parts to the service, Prelude, Anthem and Postlude.
- There will be NO singing, choir or congregational response.
- There will also be NO communion, collection, coffee hour or "passing of peace".

The service will be "live-streamed" on Facebook for those who cannot or don't feel comfortable attending in person.

Going forward we will continue to hold these services. In case of inclement weather, we will revert to the Sunday morning message from inside the church.

We hope all who can attend will. Be safe and stay strong.

Your Deacons

FAREWELL COFFEE HOUR FOR PASTOR DAVE

THIS COMING SUNDAY, AUGUST 30TH, WE ARE HAVING A FAREWELL COFFEE HOUR AFTER THE 9 A.M. SERVICE TO CELEBRATE PASTOR DAVE'S TIME WITH US. PLEASE JOIN US TO SAY GOODBYE AND WISH HIM WELL IN HIS NEW JOB IN WEST DENNIS, MA.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO THE CROXALLS, AND TO THE MASONS WHO WILL BE SETTING UP A TENT IN THE PARKING LOT WHERE WE WILL HAVE DRINKS AND DESSERTS SET UP. THE AREA WILL BE THOROUGHLY CLEANED AND SANITIZED THAT MORNING. THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF HAND SANITIZER, GLOVES AND MASKS AVAILABLE.

THANKS TO ALL THAT ARE BAKING AND MAKE THIS EVENT HAPPEN.

WE ARE ASKING EVERYONE TO WEAR THEIR ELMWOOD COMMUNITY T-SHIRT IF YOU HAVE ONE.

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE.

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The following are suggested weekly food donation for each week of the month.

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

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS
For Labor Day

"No work is insignificant. All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence." – Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." - Confucius

"Work is no disgrace; the disgrace is idleness." – Greek Proverb

"The supreme accomplishment is to blur the lines between work and play." – Arnold J. Toynbee

"Work keeps at bay three great evils: boredom, vice, and need." *Voltaire*

"A mind always employed is always happy. This is the true secret, the grand recipe, for felicity." *Thomas Jefferson*

"Heaven is blessed with perfect rest but the blessing of earth is toil." *Henry Van Dyke*

"Labor is the only prayer that Nature answers." *Robert Green Ingersoll*

HAVE A SAFE
HOLIDAY!!

Happy Labor
Day!!



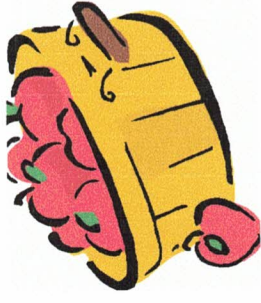
BE SURE TO LIKE
ECC ON FACEBOOK


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SEPTEMBER 2020

Due to the Pandemic, this is a tentative schedule. Most Boards are having virtual meetings.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30 pm Deacons	2	3	4	5
6	7 	8	9 6:30 pm Trustees	10	11	12
13 11 am CE	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 9 am Missions Missions serving South Park Inn	21 7:30 pm Council	22 Deadline for Newsletter Articles	23	24	25	26
27 Elmwords Published	28	29	30			

**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.**

SEPTEMBER 1	6:30 PM DEACONS
SEPTEMBER 7	LABOR DAY
SEPTEMBER 9	6:30 PM TRUSTEES
SEPTEMBER 13	11 AM CHRISTIAN ED
SEPTEMBER 20	11 AM MISSIONS
SEPTEMBER 20	MISSIONS SERVING SOUTH PARK
SEPTEMBER 21	6:30 PM COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 22	NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE
SEPTEMBER 27	ELMWORDS PUBLISHED