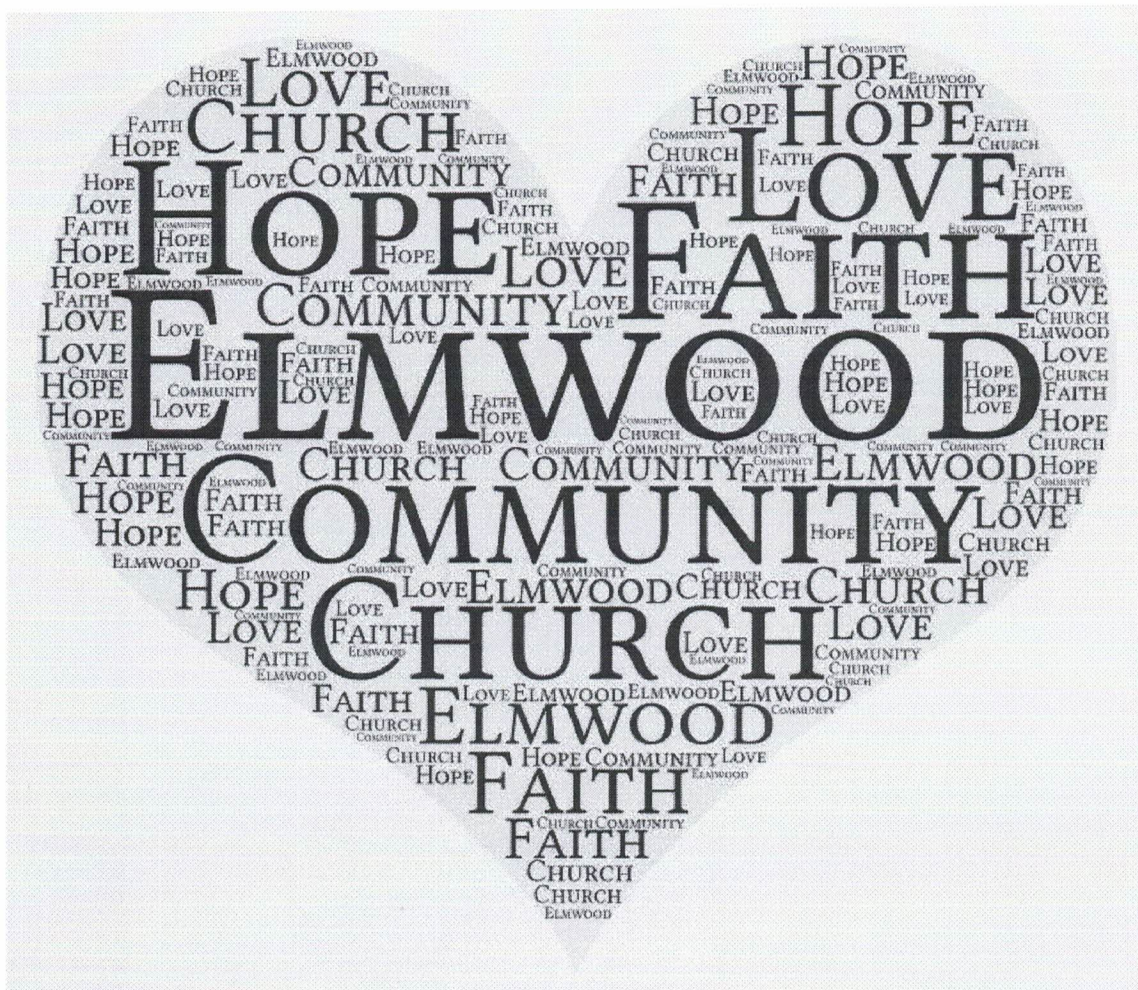


November 2020



Council Moderator's Report

Monday, October 19, 2020

In attendance: Cindy Gauthier, Susan Wiley, Colleen Peterson, Jerry Gray, Bill Alberti, Gail O'Connor and Wendy Leonard

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm

Colleen opened the meeting with a prayer and scripture reading from 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then deed of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way."

This passage spoke to me for the journey that we, as church leaders, are embarking upon to move this church into the future. It is a reminder that even though we each may be feeling overwhelmed by the tasks facing us, we have each other and each of us have different gifts to bring to the table in this process; and most importantly to trust and believe that God is with us and truly will show us "a still more excellent way." Prayer: God, increase our faith in you and in each other. Guide and bless our decision making throughout this journey to which you have called us. Give us hope for a bright future no matter what shape it may take. Amen.

Minutes for September were reviewed and accepted with corrections.

Deacon's Report - Jerry Gray

- Prayers for Craig Croxall and Charles Shorter.
- Outdoor & online services are still going very well. Music for outdoor services is much appreciated! Reverend Mia Douglas did a great job at singing the sermon. She sang 5 hymns accompanied by Jerry Bilak. She has a beautiful voice and to hear hymns being sung after so many months of silence was a welcome joy. Many thanks to Jerry Bilak, Jamie O'Connor and Colleen Peterson for playing for us over the summer. Our service is now on Facebook and You Tube.
- Larry Eddins funeral was Thursday, October 15th. Pastor Mia did the service and his ashes were laid to rest in the Memorial Garden. His sister attended. A donation was given to the church by his family.
- Pastor Mia's agreement with us will end at the end of the month. Sunday, October 25th will be her last sermon and she will be with us through October 31st. This Sunday is expected to be warmer and it will be our last outdoor service.
- Rick Coler and Chuck Peterson have been head ushers for the summer. Many thanks to them for arriving early and helping get the piano out and setting everything up.

- Thanks to Maddy O'Connor as well for learning how to set up all the audio video equipment this summer. She did it all on her own yesterday and did a great job!
- Rev. Tamara Mooreland gave Jerry the names of 3 ministers. One is interested in a permanent position, one wants to be supply only, and the 3rd he hasn't spoken to yet.
- The church garden is still growing and producing peppers, a couple of tomatoes and a few beans. Please help yourself as Edie will be coming and pulling out everything soon for the winter.
- We will be following all the CDC, State and UCC guidelines for bringing services indoors starting Sunday, November 1st. Currently we are allowed up to 200 people or 50% capacity. We easily meet that requirement. We also need a decreasing positivity rate in the State. Pews will be blocked off to space everyone safely. Families will be kept together. There will be no singing, offertory, passing of the peace or Coffee Hour. Pew bibles and hymnals will be pulled but you can bring your own bible if you wish. Masks must be worn. Hand sanitizer will be available and the sanctuary will be cleaned.
- We will be doing communion using pre-packaged juice/cracker units. The cracker is sealed and the juice is sealed. These are not expensive and are currently used for bringing communion to people in their homes. Gloves will be used to hand them out.
- Collection plates will be at the front and side doors in which for people to drop their pledge/donation/free will offerings.
- As for Fresh Start, the church renting our sanctuary after us on Sundays, the virus shelf-life on surfaces is about 2 days so we need to clean only after our service for them. This will also be further discussed at Deacons.
- Have not ordered special bulletin covers for Memorial Sunday, Veterans' Sunday and the Advent season. Barbara T. offered to create some by downloading pictures and clipart from the internet.
- Singing and ordering wreaths and poinsettias will be discussed at future Deacons meetings.
- Being back inside the sanctuary is a fluid operation depending on what happens with Covid-19 numbers and the guidelines issued as we go along. Things can change. The virus is transmitted via the respiratory system – breathing, coughing, sneezing, singing. Masks and washing hands frequently do work and are the best preventative measures.
- We will continue broadcasting service on Facebook once we move inside for those who cannot attend in person. We purchased a wifi extender to reach the sanctuary to make this work. They will also continue to be on YouTube.
- Ginger Croxall thanked Jerry for getting it on YouTube so that Craig can see the services. Not everyone has Facebook.
- Council thanked Jerry for all his hard work and efforts at getting us on-line!

Christian Ed – Gail O'Connor

- No Advent Workshop or activities this year as we can't do most things this season that we would normally do.
- Maybe once inside, will start Sunday School.
- Gail will have the kids make Christmas cards for Barb T. to send out to people.

Missions -Cindy Gauthier

- Remaining date for South Park dinner service this year will be on November 22nd. Carol Alberti & Cindy Gauthier will prepare and deliver the meal.
- Barb T. requested info regarding December activities. Need to discuss what can be done. Susan noted that it is a comfort to people in church to safely do some usual things. Susan Wiley will contact the Town of West Hartford to see if we can still participate in the Adopt A Family for Christmas and if they will be accepting mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and used coats. Discussed the possibility of placing items in individual sealed bags instead of on the tree due to Covid. Cindy suggested if we cannot do some of our usual activities, maybe we could do Food Baskets since there are so many people with food insecurity right now. People could bring in non-perishable food items each Sunday and Missions can put the baskets together for donation. Will continue these discussions at future Missions meetings.

Trustees – Bill Alberti

- Fresh Start is back in the sanctuary. They were sent a new lease to sign that will end in May as usual.
- We obtained 3 estimates for painting and cleaning the parsonage. Decided to go with our neighbor, Judy Williams. Decided not to remove the wallpaper in the dining room or downstairs bathroom at a cost of \$900 (incl. painting) as they are in good shape and there are other repairs/costs to cover that are more necessary. Painting \$3,325 plus supplies and deep cleaning \$500. She can start the middle of next week.
- Beam supporting porch roof is rotted. Upstairs bathroom ceiling needs to be replaced. Waiting on cost of repairs from Layne Brown.
- Garage door needs to be replaced as it cannot be opened. Getting estimates this week.
- Dead tree in front of southeast corner of property needs to come down. Cost is \$800.
- There is a refrigerator and freezer that need to be removed from the basement.
- No organizations are responding to calls to pick up all the furniture in the garage. May need to just remove garage door and set it all curbside.

Controller's Report – Susan Wiley – No report

Member at Large - Wendy Leonard – No report

Old Business –

- Stewardship letter went out. Council and Mark Janas approved before it was sent. Asked everyone to send in remainder of pledges for 2020. To date \$30,500 has come in of the \$42,000 pledged.

New Business –

- Colleen summarized a 36 page pdf UCC Guide to Pastoral Search and Call for council members to discuss. Also emailed a 25 page UCC Local Church Profile “Who are we – Who is our neighbor – Who is God calling us to become?” Summary guide was broken into 10 steps and briefly run through. Normally, this is at least a 2-year process to develop our church profile having discussions and getting input from the congregation. A Search Committee is created and an interim is hired to guide us through the process of searching for the next settled pastor. Since we don’t have that kind of time or money, and because we need someone for November 1st, we had to make decisions on behalf of the congregation. Answering the workbook questions in the Guide, we decided we will be looking for a Designated-Term Pastorate. The definition is as follows: The goal of a designated-term pastorate is to work toward the church’s declared purpose for a specific season; often the pastor’s skills match the congregation’s declared goals. Examples of designated-term pastors include New Ministry Start Pastor, Revitalization Pastor, Hospice/Legacy Pastor, or other for the purpose of a merger, relocation, reunification, cultural reassessment, staff transition, selling a building, or healing a crisis.

In this case, the Guide as recommended that the governing body could choose to be the Search Committee. Council will take on that task and in reference to our work when searching for a way to find a Designated-Term Pastorate to help us move the church into the future, we will be called the Leadership Team.

In light of the fact that we needed someone to be Pastor as of November 1st, Jerry told us that Rev. Janet Stoddard was willing to be a Supply Minister, do pastoral care, and meet with the Leadership Team once a week for the months of November and December. She is aware of our current situation and she will help guide the team toward finding a Designated-Term Pastor for January 1, 2021.

Colleen Peterson made a motion:

To offer employment to Rev. Janet Stoddard of Newington as a Supply Pastor, provide pastoral care and meet with the Leadership Team weekly during November and December 2020 to help us search for a Designated-Term Interim. Susan Wiley seconded the motion. Unanimous vote in favor. Motion passes.

It was decided to meet each Sunday after church services for those on the Leadership Team who are available out of respect to Rev. Stoddard’s and everyone else’s time. Jerry Gray will call Rev. Stoddard to offer the position and discuss salary.

Other New Business -

- Cindy was contacted by a friend and neighbor who belongs to Grace Church of West Hartford. They are looking for a permanent new home as they lost their rental at the University of Hartford due to Covid-19. They have about 76 members and a very active youth program. She showed him our building and he said it was what they are looking for. They would also need to use the Sue Lyons Room. He needs a rental price to bring to his church Elders. Council asked Cindy to get additional information on what their specific needs are in terms of days and times and space needed so this can be presented to Trustees.

Upcoming Events –

- November 22nd – Missions will be preparing dinner for South Park Inn

Meeting adjourned at 8:23 pm

Next council meeting scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2020 at 6:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Gauthier, Moderator

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

FROM YOUR DEACONS

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

November

02 Grace Congdon
03 Sam Congdon
07 Linda Knorr
07 Ernestine Nobou
18 Sarah Bryden
25 Haley Gauthier
26 Marion Cook
27 Carol Hunsinger

December

03 Gabriella Nobou
08 Nick Allgaier
13 Adela Martinez
13 Claudia Haxton
19 Jerry Bilak
20 Kelly Lincoln
20 Daniel MacDougall
28 Joan Gustafson
29 Carol Alberti

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

Bible Study
Choir Practice
Holiday Bazaar
Advent Workshop

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MISSIONS

The following is the final 2020 date to serve dinner at South Park Inn:

November 22

Thank you, The Board of Missions

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Hope this message finds you all well. Your Deacons have been hard at work keeping the spirit alive and well here at the Elmwood Community Church. Each Sunday since March, we have broadcast a message of hope or a complete Sunday Worship service on our Facebook page. We now have our own channel on YouTube where these broadcasts are shared.

It is getting to be the middle of Autumn; God is painting the trees and woods with vibrant colors (you know, he uses every color in the box when he does). The air is getting crisp and cool. Soon we will not be able to hold our Sunday Worship service outside. So as of November 1st, we will be moving back inside the sanctuary for Worship. We will also be welcoming the Rev. Janet Stoddard as an extended supply minister. She is a chaplain at The Hospital for Special Care in New Britain and was chaplain at Avery Heights before that. She will be preaching on Sundays for us through the end of the year. She will also be serving our church with pastoral care and helping guide the church leadership in our period of discernment as we seek the path God has prepared for our future.

We will be following the CDC, State and UCC rules for Covid-19 safety; that means masks, sanitizing, no coffee hour. We will have a couple of baskets set up inside the front and side doors for collections (no passing the plates). We will also start up doing communion again on 11/29, this time with prepackaged cups with juice and wafers. The exact procedures for this important sacrament will be published later. We will also be broadcasting our Sunday worship services on Facebook and YouTube for those who cannot be with us in person.

With the help God, we will get through this period of turbulence and unknown future. Until then, we pray that His hand will guide us, feed us and protect us.

Peace and love,
Your Deacons

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Peace, Your Deacons

ON A PERSONAL NOTE



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

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**DON'T FORGET TO TURN BACK
YOUR CLOCKS ON OCTOBER 31
BEFORE YOU GO TO BED!!**

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*BE SURE TO LIKE
ECC ON* **FACEBOOK**

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**HAVE A SAFE
THANKSGIVING
HOLIDAY!**

Inspirational Quotes for Thanksgiving

"We should certainly count our blessings, but we should also make our blessings count." – Neal A. Maxwell

"What if, today, we were grateful for everything?" – Charlie Brown

"Not what we say about our blessings, but how we use them, is the true measure of our Thanksgiving." – W.T. Purkiser

"Gratitude is a quality similar to electricity: It must be produced and discharged and used up in order to exist at all." –William Faulkner

"Forever on Thanksgiving Day the heart will find the pathway home." –Wilbur D. Nesbit

"It's not the minutes spent at the table that put on weight, it's the seconds." –Unknown

"An optimist is a person who starts a new diet on Thanksgiving Day." –Irv Kupcine

"Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough." – Oprah Winfrey

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***Happy Labor
Day!!***





NOVEMBER 2020

(Some are virtual meetings)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Remembrance Sunday	2	3 6:30 pm Deacons Election Day VOTE!	4	5	6	7
8 Veterans Sunday 11 am Christian Ed	9	10	11 6:30 pm Trustees	12	13	14
15 9 am Missions	16 6:30 pm Council	17 Deadline for Newsletter Articles	18	19	20	21
22 THANKSGIVING SUNDAY Missions serving South Park Inn Elmwords published	23	24	25	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27	28
29 Ad	30					

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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.**

NOVEMBER 1	REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 3	6:30 PM DEACONS
NOVEMBER 3	ELECTION DAY – VOTE!
NOVEMBER 8	DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
NOVEMBER 8	11 AM CHRISTIAN ED
NOVEMBER 8	VETERAN'S SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 11	6:30 PM TRUSTEES
NOVEMBER 15	11 AM MISSIONS
NOVEMBER 16	6:30 PM COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 17	NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE
NOVEMBER 22	ELMWORDS PUBLISHED
NOVEMBER 22	MISSIONS SERVING SOUTH PARK INN
NOVEMBER 22	THANKSGIVING SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 26	THANKSGIVING DAY – OFFICE CLOSED