

Parish Council Minutes – February 1, 2021

Moderator Bruce Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:04 P.M. In attendance on Zoom: Bruce Weaver, Rev. Nancy Rottman, Chuck Cotting, Debbie Cotting, Katherine Decker, Scott DeSantis, Jill DiGiorgio, Linda Ladd, Jeff Law, Jim Marshall, Annmarie Pendola and Larainne Wilson. Debbie offered the meditation. Minutes from 1/5/2021 were approved with unanimous consent.

Pastor Report: Rev. Nancy Rottman provided updates on the state of the church, virtual worship and Zoom gatherings, congregational care, and community activities. We have continued with our study of the Psalms through our Epiphany series of “God is Holding Your Life” which will conclude on Sunday, February 14. The Lenten season begins on February 17 with Ash Wednesday. The Lenten theme is Holy Vessels, which focuses on healing and recovery. Rev Nancy continues her work with *A Healthy Lynnfield*, which has been offering the “Together in 2021,” a virtual series on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. The second session on Implicit Bias is Thursday, February 11 and the third session will be held on Thursday, March 11. Parish Council continues to participate in facilitated conversations with Rev Laura Stephens-Reed.

Financial Reports: Treasurer Jeff Law provided Council with an update regarding the budget and the potential financial impact presented with the current pandemic.

Education: Larainne Wilson provided an update on Church School and Faith Formation activities. The Church School schedule for February is set, with Larainne running a talk about the coming season of Lent for Feb 7. Godly Play will focus on the parables with Katie doing the “Parable of the Pearl” for Feb 14, and Allison doing the “Parable of the Sower” for Feb 21 and the “Parable of the Leaven” for Feb 28. The Parent Support Group will continue to meet via Zoom on Thursdays at 7:30pm. On Saturday, February 13 the Youth Group and Young Families Group will join with Mission and Outreach in the parking lot for socially distant, a Fill the Goat Tube event to raise money for Heifer International.

Outreach: Linda Ladd reported on the activities of the Mission and Outreach Team. As previously mentioned, M&O is joining with Faith Formation for a drive-through collection of coins to fill the goat tube on February 13. On January 24, Bethany McGinnis from Equal Exchange Fair Trade joined Zoom fellowship. She presented information about the chocolate and cocoa industry. In upcoming Tower Notes, M&O will be putting articles highlighting the work of local food pantries. The first will be on the Wakefield Food Pantry. In order to promote climate change discussions, the Green Team is looking to have some movie discussions. The idea would be to watch a movie and follow it with a Zoom discussion.

Diaconate: Annmarie Pendola reported that the Deacons continue to assist with contacting church members who are on the Congregation Care List. They met on January 16 to take down Christmas decorations at the church. The choir has starting preparing music for the Lenten Season. The next Diaconate meeting is Feb 3. In addition to personal and Congregational care updates, there will be a discussion about sending out cards to parishioners on the Care List for Valentines Day and Easter, and preparations for the Lenten Season.

Stewardship: Debbie Cotting reported that the Stewardship team consisting of Rev Nancy, Katie Swayne-Gerrish and Debbie met on January 27 to discuss the Stewardship campaign. The campaign will be held sometime in the April 11 through May 16 date range. They also need to develop strategies about how best to reach people depending on our worship, hybrid or all virtual, at the time. Additionally, they will be considering creating a narrative budget.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported on the various maintenance and capital maintenance projects. Scott did some more projects for Tower Day School. Metro Swift fixed a small leak, in the Richards Hall piping. Chuck also provided an update on the reconstruction work.

Old/New Business: There was a brief discussion on potential fundraisers, including talk about starting the planning process for the Craft Fair to hopefully be held in the fall. A Golf Tournament has been planned for Monday, June 28th at the Thomson Country Club. Details regarding signups are being worked out.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Decker, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: Monday, March 1 @ 7pm

Meditation – Katherine Decker