

## Parish Council Minutes – January 5, 2021

Moderator Bruce Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:02 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. Chuck offered the meditation. Minutes from 11/30/2020 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 had a fairly successful Advent and Christmas season with lots of participation from around the Congregation including remote recording by the Centre Church choir. Our Epiphany series will be “God is Holding Your Life,” which will focus on the Psalms. Rev Nancy will be attending a “Get Ready” webinar on Lent on January 6. Ash Wednesday is February 17. Conversations with Rev. Laura Stephens-Reed will start on January 12.

Rev Nancy continues to participate in A Healthy Lynnfield’s sub committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. There will be a series of virtual Zoom trainings for the public starting with Debby Irving, author of *Waking Up White*, on January 14. The series will continue with trainings in February and March.

The Centre Church Pen Pal program is launching in January with the goal of fostering intergenerational connection and relationship within the congregation.

**Financial Reports:** Treasurer Jeff Law provided Council with an update regarding the budget and the potential financial impact presented with the current pandemic. There was a brief discussion about how to support the UCC conference that we have membership in.

**Education:** Larainne Wilson provided an update on Church School and Faith Formation activities. Allison and Katie are now teaching Godly Play. Faith Formation is looking at materials to see what needs to be replaced or updated. An impromptu Christmas Pageant took place on December 27. The next socially distant youth group will be on January 17 in which the group will make “Birthday Bags” for the Sunrise Senior Center. In order to get the Centre Church Pen Pal program up running, there will be a survey and matching process taking place in January. The weekly Zoom Parent Support Group will continue on Thursdays at 7:30pm.

**Outreach:** Linda Ladd reported on the activities of the Mission and Outreach Team. In December they hosted the Heifer Living Gift Market and will continue to match donations made to Heifer. In supporting Heifer’s tenet of “Pass on the Gift,” Outreach Ministries sold wreaths donated by Boy Scout Troop 48, and donated the proceeds to Heifer International in honor of the children of Centre church. Also in December, Outreach hosted the first ever drive-through drop-off of Angel Tree gifts. They teamed up with Tower Day School families to collect, sort and inventory donations. A total of around 750 donated items were brought to City Mission on Dec 13<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, church member donations of shopping cards and checks were matched for our local mission partners including Bread & Roses, Chelsea Collaborative, City Mission and Citizen’s Inn. A limited selection of best sellers from Equal Exchange Fair Trade were sold in December. There will be another order on February 5<sup>th</sup> for delivery by Valentine’s Day

**Diaconate:** Annmarie Pendola reported that the Deacons continue to assist with contacting church members who are on the Congregation Care List. The Deacons also assisted with the Christmas Eve Pilgrimage on December 24<sup>th</sup>. They met on December 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss Congregational care concerns, preparations for the Christmas Eve Pilgrimage and plans for taking down decorations following Epiphany.

**Stewardship:** Debbie Cotting reported that she would be meeting with Rev Nancy and Katie Swayne-Gerrish to discuss the spring Stewardship campaign.

**Finance:** Chuck Cotting reported that all the hand sanitizer dispensers are now hand-free devices. Scott replaces a window in Room 24 that was blown out as the result of a windstorm. Metro Swift also did some maintenance on a leaky pendant sprinkler. Chuck also provided an update on the repairs from the sprinkler head flood.

**Current Topics:** There was a brief discussion about the 300/301 celebration and potential rededication following repairs.

**Old/New Business:** There was a brief discussion on potential fundraisers.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Decker, Recording Secretary

**Next Meeting: Monday, February 1 @ 7pm**

**Meditation – Debbie Cotting**