

Parish Council Minutes – November 30, 2020

Moderator Bruce Weaver called the meeting to order at 7:03 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. Larainne offered the meditation. Minutes from 10/26/2020 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 have entered the Season of Waiting. For Advent, the worship series will be “I believe...even when” from Worship Design Studio. There will be a Blue Christmas virtual service for all those dealing with losses. Christmas Eve plans are underway, and will consist of a virtual service as well as an in-person pilgrimage experience, which will be safe, by appointment, and include physical distancing, touchless stations, reflection, candlelight, and music.

A group of clergy and friends from Lynnfield and Wakefield participated in the virtual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service. Rev Nancy continues to participate in A Healthy Lynnfield’s sub-committee on Diversity Equality, and Inclusion, which is working on a 3 part training series to start in January with Debby Irving, author of *Waking Up White*.

Rev Nancy also presented a proposal for a series of facilitated conversations with Rev Laura Stephens. These sessions would be for lay leadership and the ministerial staff. A motion to move forward with the idea was proposed and approved by Parish Council.

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. Plans are underway for a potential, livestream caroling event that would be across all age groups. The Church School schedule for December will be Illustrated Ministries with Larainne for the 1st Sunday, Godly Play: Exile and Return & Advent Stories with Lisa and Allison for the 2nd & 3rd Sundays, and Pageant for the 4th Sunday. Advent Bags with the theme of “I Believe Even When” will be distributed via pick-up, mail and delivery. These bags will contain luminary bags, electric tealights, the film festival schedule, advent sheet and stickers. The Weekly Parent Support Group continues to meet via Zoom on Thursdays at 7:30pm. Rev Nancy and Faith Formation are planning on offering a Pen Pal opportunity in January.

Parish Council would like to thank Lisa Gerbick for all her work with Godly Play.

Outreach: Linda Ladd reported that members of the Mission and Outreach team took part in the Nov 15th worship service that included Heifer’s Country Director in Tanzania, Leticia Mpuya, who participated live from Tanzania. Leticia and Rachel Merrill of Heifer, answered questions during the live Facebook event. Heifer Living Gift Market purchases can be made either by check to Centre Church or online through Heifer.

629 lbs of food, including 39 frozen turkeys, were delivered to Haven From Hunger in November. Tower Day School also collected Thanksgiving Food for HFH. A total of \$1,100 was donated to Ma Duke’s for the Thanksgiving Dinner. People will be able to drop off gifts to donate to City Mission’s Angel Tree in early December. Additionally, there are Equal Exchange Fair Trade items available for purchase through December 4. Bread & Roses, Chelsea Collaborative and City Mission are all

requesting gift cards as donations. Many can be purchased through the church's shopping card program. Outreach will continue to match donations made by church members to organizations hit hard by the pandemic.

Diaconate: Annmarie Pendola reported that the Deacons continue to assist with contacting church members who are on the Congregation Care List. They met on November 18 to welcome new members to the Diaconate and discussed Advent and Christmas Eve services, music and the annual organ maintenance. In terms of music, the choir will be meeting on Zoom on December 1. On November 22, the deacons decorated the Church for the Advent and Christmas Season. The plan is to take down decorations on Sunday, January 17th. The December meeting will be on Wednesday, December 9.

Stewardship: Debbie Cotting reported that the 2021 Stewardship Campaign will take place after Easter in April. Katie Swayne-Gerrish has expressed interest in helping with Stewardship.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported on the status of the 2020 Maintenance activities and the 2020 Capital Maintenance projects. All the manual hand sanitizer dispensers have been replaced with hands-free devices. On Sunday, November 8, the HSB Connected Technology sensor system was installed.

Current Topics: Chuck provided an update on the repairs from the sprinkler failure.

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

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Decker, Recording Secretary

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 5 @ 7pm

Meditation – Chuck Cotting